Government of Bengal

Revenue Department

# Report on the Administration of Bengal 1935-36

(With a Summary of Political and General Events for the calendar year 1936)

Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1937

Price—Indian, Rs. 1-2; English, 1s. 11d.

00133012

Digitized with financial assistance from

Government of Maharashtra

on 01 February, 2020

# Government of Bengal

## Revenue Department

133012

# Report on the Administration of Bengal 1935-36

LIB OF BOM BRA OF ROYAL ASIAT

(With a Summary of Political and General Events for the calendar year 1936)

FORWARDED BY ORDER OF THE 31 MAR. 1

Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1937

Published by the Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal.

Agents in India.

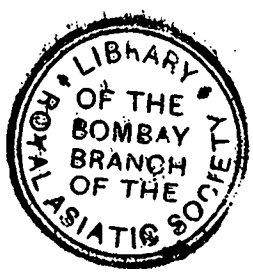
Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Printers and Booksellers, College Street, Calcutta.

Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.

Customers in the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe may obtain publications either direct from the High Commissioner's office or through any bookseller.

# INTRODUCTION.

The first part of this Report presents a brief history of the chief events of general and political interest in Bengal during the calendar year 1936, with a description of the further measures adopted to eradicate terrorism and of progress in rural development. The second part contains more detailed accounts of the work of the several administrative departments of Government and of local self-governing bodies, and includes a statistical survey of Trade and Industry. The Report is published under the authority of the Government of Bengal.



# CONTENTS.

## Part I.

GENERAL SUMMARY, 1936.


| | | Page. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Administration .. .. .. .. .. .. | i |
| 2. | Tours of His Excellency the Governor .. .. .. .. | |
| 3. | Death of the King-Emperor George V .. .. .. .. | ii |
| 4. | Proposals for a memorial .. .. .. .. .. | iii |
| 5. | Introduction of Provincial Autonomy : Preparations for holding elections .. | iv |
| 6. | Political parties .. .. .. .. .. .. | iv |
| 7. | Congress activities .. .. .. .. .. | v |
| 8. | Terrorist activities .. .. .. .. .. | vi |
| 9. | Action under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act .. .. | vii |
| 10. | Government policy .. .. .. .. .. | vii |
| 11. | Vocational training of detenus .. .. .. .. | viii |
| 12. | Public attitude towards terrorism .. .. .. .. | ix |
| 13. | Additional garrison .. .. .. .. .. | x |
| 14. | Communal relations .. .. .. .. .. | x |
| 15. | Calcutta Corporation .. .. .. .. .. | x |
| 16. | New Howrah bridge .. .. .. .. .. | xii |
| 17. | Village Self-Government .. .. .. .. .. | xiii |
| 18. | Press .. .. .. .. .. .. | xiii |
| 19. | Failure of crops in West Bengal .. .. .. .. | xv |
| 20. | Government's relief measures .. .. .. .. | xvi |
| 21. | Test relief works .. .. .. .. .. | xvi |
| 22. | Gratuitous relief .. .. .. .. .. | xvii |
| 23. | Non-official efforts .. .. .. .. .. | xviii |
| 24. | Land Improvement Loans .. .. .. .. .. | xviii |
| 25. | Agricultural Loans .. .. .. .. .. | xix |
| 26. | Rural development .. .. .. .. .. | xix |
| 27. | Land Mortgage Banks .. .. .. .. .. | xx |
| 28. | Jute restriction .. .. .. .. .. | xx |
| 29. | Demonstration parties for minor industries .. .. .. | xxi |
| 30. | Industrial Credit Corporation .. .. .. .. | xxii |
| 31. | Agricultural Debtors Act, 1935 .. .. .. .. | xxii |
| 32. | Water-hyacinth Act, 1936 .. .. .. .. | xxiii |
| 33. | Co-operative Credit movement .. .. .. .. | xxiii |
| 34. | Agricultural innovations .. .. .. .. .. | xxiii |
| 35. | Village improvement .. .. .. .. .. | xxiv |
| 36. | Local enterprise .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxiv |
| 37. | Voluntary labour .. .. .. .. .. | xxv |
| 38. | Publicity : Cinema parties .. .. .. .. .. | xxv |
| 39. | Publicity van .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxvi |
| 40. | Wireless broadcast .. .. .. .. .. | xxvi |
| 41. | Press notes .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxvi |
| 42. | Industrial disputes .. .. .. .. .. | xxvi |
| 43. | Trade Unions and Communism .. .. .. .. | xxvii |

## Legislative Council.


| | | Page. |
|---|---|---|
| 44. | Sessions .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxviii |
| 45. | Acts passed .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxviii |
| 46. | Bills pending .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxix |
| 47. | Questions .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxix |
| 48. | Resolutions .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxix |
| 49. | Annual Budget grants .. .. .. .. .. | xxix |
| 50. | Special motions .. .. .. .. .. .. | xxx |


## Part II,

## The year 1935-36.

### Chapter I.—States Forces, and External Affairs.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Cooch Behar .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1 |
| 2. | Tripura .. .. .. .. .. .. | 3 |
| 3. | Auxiliary Force and Indian Territorial Force .. .. .. | 4 |
| 4. | Ecclesiastical establishment .. .. .. .. | 6 |
| 5. | Emigration .. .. .. .. .. .. | 6 |
| 6. | Haj Pilgrims .. .. .. .. .. | 7 |


### Chapter II.—Law and Order.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Police Administration in Bengal .. .. .. .. | 8 |
| 2. | Police Administration in Calcutta .. .. .. .. | 11 |
| 3. | Chemical Examiner's Department .. .. .. .. | 13 |
| 4. | Jails .. .. .. .. .. .. | 13 |
| 5. | Registration .. .. .. .. .. .. | 18 |


### Chapter III—Justice.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Criminal Justice .. .. .. .. .. | 19 |
| 2. | Civil Justice .. .. .. .. .. | 27 |
| 3. | Chittagong Hill Tracts .. .. .. .. .. | 36 |


### Chapter IV—Land Revenue Administration.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Realization of the Revenue .. .. .. .. .. | 37 |
| 2. | Condition of the People .. .. .. .. | 38 |
| 3. | Other Reveune Works .. .. .. .. .. | 39 |
| 4. | Waste Lands .. .. .. .. .. .. | 40 |
| 5. | Government Estates .. .. .. .. .. | 41 |
| 6. | Wards and Attached Estates .. .. .. .. | 42 |
| 7. | Revenue and Rent-paying Classes .. .. .. .. | 44 |
| 8. | Chittagong Hill Tracts .. .. .. .. .. | 44 |
| 9. | Surveys .. .. .. .. .. .. | 45 |
| 10. | Land Records and Settlement .. .. .. .. | 46 |

## Chapter V—Revenue and Finance.


| | | Page. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Imperial Revenue and Finance .. .. .. .. | 53 |
| 2. | Salt .. .. .. .. .. .. | 55 |
| 3. | Income-tax .. .. .. .. .. .. | 55 |
| 4. | Provincial Revenue and Finance .. .. .. .. | 56 |
| 5. | Stamps .. .. .. .. .. .. | 63 |
| 6. | Excise .. .. .. .. .. .. | 64 |
| 7. | Road and Public Works Cesses .. .. .. .. | 67 |


## Chapter VI—Legislative Council.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Course of Legislation .. .. .. .. .. | 68 |


## Chapter VII—Local Self-Government.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Calcutta Corporation .. .. .. .. .. | 75 |
| 2. | Calcutta Improvement Trust .. .. .. .. | 84 |
| 3. | Municipalities .. .. .. .. .. | 85 |
| 4. | District Boards .. .. .. .. .. | 97 |


## Chapter VIII—Agriculture, Forests and Co-operation.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Agriculture .. .. .. .. .. | 106 |
| 2. | Weather and Crops .. .. .. .. | 109 |
| 3. | Horticulture .. .. .. .. | 112 |
| 4. | Cinchona Plantations and Factory .. .. .. | 114 |
| 5. | Forests .. .. .. .. .. | 115 |
| 6. | Veterinary Department .. .. .. .. | 117 |
| 7. | Zoological Gardens, Calcutta .. .. .. | 119 |
| 8. | Co-operative Banks and Societies .. .. .. .. | 119 |

## Chapter IX—Public Works and Irrigation.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Public Works .. .. .. .. .. .. | 131 |
| 2. | Irrigation .. .. .. .. .. .. | 136 |


## Chapter X—Public Health and Medical Relief.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Public Health .. .. .. .. .. | 143 |
| 2. | Vaccination .. .. .. .. .. .. | 150 |
| 3. | Sanitaton .. .. .. .. .. | 152 |
| 4. | Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries .. .. .. | 154 |
| 5. | District Hospitals and Dispensaries .. .. .. | 155 |
| 6. | Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling .. .. .. .. | 156 |
| 7. | Poisons Act .. .. .. .. .. | 157 |

## Chapter XI—Education.


| | | Page. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Education .. .. .. .. .. .. | 158 |


## Chapter XII—Trade and Industry.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Industries Department .. .. .. .. .. | 166 |
| 2. | Manufacture and Mines .. .. .. .. .. | 169 |
| 3. | Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries .. .. | 171 |
| 4. | Factories Act, 1934 .. .. .. .. .. | 174 |
| 5. | Industrial Disputes .. .. .. .. .. | 175 |
| 6. | Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 .. .. .. .. | 175 |
| 7. | Bengal Steam Boiler Commission .. .. .. .. | 176 |
| 8. | Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission .. .. .. | 177 |
| 9. | Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1930) .. .. .. | 177 |
| 10. | Workmen's Protection Act, 1934 .. .. .. .. | 178 |
| 11. | Indian Companies Act, 1913, and Allied Acts .. .. .. | 179 |
| 12. | Provident Insurances Societies Act, 1912 .. .. .. | 180 |
| 13. | Trade— | |
| | Foreign Sea-borne Trade .. .. .. .. | 180 |
| | Coasting Trade .. .. .. .. .. | 192 |
| 14. | Calcutta Port Trust .. .. .. .. | 192 |
| 15. | Howrah Bridge .. .. .. .. .. | 193 |
| 16. | Inland Steam and Motor Vessels .. .. .. .. | 193 |
| 17. | Indian Electricity Act, 1910 .. .. .. .. | 194 |


## Chapter XIII—Literature and the Press.


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Books .. .. .. .. .. .. | 196 |
| 2. | Newspapers and Periodicals .. .. .. .. | 199 |
| 3. | Cinematograph Act .. .. .. .. .. | 209 |

# Bengal Administration Report, 1935-36.

## Part I.

## GENERAL SUMMARY, 1936.

Administration.

Throughout the year 1936 His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Sir John Anderson, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., held office as Governor of Bengal. The Hon'ble Sir John Ackroyd Woodhead, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., remained a Member throughout the period under review. The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazim-ud-Din, K.C.I.E., continued to be a Member from the 1st January 1936 to the 5th February 1936, when he proceeded on four months' leave. The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin acted as a temporary Member in the vacancy. Sir Nazim-ud-Din resumed charge on the 3rd June 1936. The Hon'ble Sir Robert Niel Reid, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., held office as Member from the 1st January to the 2nd April 1936, when he proceeded on four months' leave. The Hon'ble Mr. G. P. Hogg, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., acted as a temporary Member in the vacancy. Sir Robert Reid resumed charge as Member on the 1st August 1936. The Hon'ble Sir Brojendra Lal Mitter, K.C.S.I., was a Member from the 1st January to the 18th April 1936, when he proceeded on four months' leave, the Hon'ble Mr. Bijoy Kumar Basu, C.I.E., acting for him. Sir Brojendra Lal Mitter, resumed charge on the 18th August 1936, and remained in office until the end of the year. The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Mohiuddin Faroqui, Kt., of Ratanpur, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy, Kt., and the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Azizul Haque held office as Ministers throughout the period under review.

Tours of His Excellency the Governor.

2. Five districts remained to be visited by His Excellency during his term of office, viz., Dinajpur, Malda, Jessore, Rangpur and Bogra. His Excellency visited the first two districts at the beginning, and Jessore at the end, of February. In all these places His Excellency's visit evoked keen interest amongst the local people, who received him with demonstrations of loyalty and the utmost cordiality. At Malda, His Excellency visited the

ruins of Gaur and Pandua, and at Jessore the local reception committee arranged for a distribution of clothes to the poor by members of His Excellency's staff. His Excellency was in Darjeeling from April to June, but paid a visit to Calcutta for a day on the 30th April in order to discuss the financial position of the province with persons representing various interests in the country. On the 9th July His Excellency left for Dacca and on his way there paid a visit to Brahmanbaria, a very unusual compliment to a subdivisional headquarters; the occasion was the opening of a khal which was named after him and excavated by the voluntary labour of all classes of the people. His Excellency's speech on that occasion was broadcast by gramophone record that night, and attracted attention in the summary issued by the Director of Public Information. His Excellency remained at Dacca from the 12th to the 30th July returning to Calcutta on the 31st. During his stay in Dacca district His Excellency visited Narayanganj to open the headquarters of a Youth Association and went out for four days on an informal and practically incognito trip up the Lakhya river, at several places walking into the interior from the river bank and visiting the villages. At Dacca His Excellency held the annual Durbar and Police Parade and presided over the Convocations of the University and of the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj. At the Durbar this year His Excellency delivered an important speech regarding the methods adopted by Government to deal with terrorism. His Excellency left for Darjeeling in the beginning of September and on his return journey to Calcutta visited Rangpur and Bogra. While at Rangpur His Excellency drove out 20 miles and visited a union board farm at Barahajratpur and, as at Jessore, he stopped for a few minutes to see the feeding of the poor. His visit to the Cigar Manufacturing Society at Gajaghanta was especially appreciated. In Bogra he opened the Union Board Association building and visited some villages in Nishindra and Gokul unions.

With these two visits to Rangpur and Bogra, His Excellency completed the tour of all the districts in the province, some of which had not been visited by the Governor of the Province for 10 or 12 years.

**Death of the King-Emperor George V.**

3. The year 1936 had hardly opened when on January 21st Bengal, in common with the rest of the Empire, was stunned with grief at the news of the death, after a short illness, of His Majesty the King-Emperor George V. The popular reaction to this sad news afforded evidence of the very secure and prominent place which His late Majesty occupied in the affections of all classes of people in Bengal. Everywhere it was as if a personal friend had

died. Throughout the province the outward manifestations of grief and mourning were so widespread and spontaneous, both on January 21st and again a week later on the day of the funeral, that they obviously could only proceed from a very genuine and deep sense of sorrow. In Calcutta there was an immediate and spontaneous cessation of business in the city, in all shops and bazars, schools and places of amusement. Reports of equally spontaneous action indicative of the public sorrow came from every district, while throughout the province public meetings were quickly convened to express condolence with the Royal Family in their bereavement and loyalty to the new King-Emperor. Anything in the nature of public festivity was voluntarily abandoned or postponed during the next few days. On the day of the funeral, services were held in all churches, and prayers were said in all mosques and temples. That Congress itself, which had officially stood aloof from the Silver Jubilee Celebrations was not unmoved by this sad event was shown by the subdued conduct, and restricted extent, of the celebrations of Independence Day on January 26th. In Hooghly district the celebration was given up altogether.

Proposals for a memorial.

4. On 14th March, in response to a request from leading men of all professions, His Excellency convened a meeting at Government House to consider ways and means for establishing a memorial to His late Majesty. It was clear from this meeting that there was a strong and general public desire that a fitting memorial should be established in Bengal. Accordingly it was decided to raise money for the erection of a statue in Calcutta and for the creation of a fund to be applied to the relief of human suffering in Bengal. For the general purpose of putting this desire into effect a representative non-official Committee was elected, with His Excellency as President; at the same time a smaller executive committee was elected under the Chairmanship of the Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan, and sub-committees were formed for settling details of finance, site and design. The executive committee aimed at collecting Rs. 3 lakhs, sufficient to defray the cost of a suitable memorial in Calcutta and to leave a substantial surplus to be devoted to some permanent humanitarian institution for the benefit of all Bengal. Up to the end of December 1936 the collections had reached Rs. 2,78,033. It has been proposed that a statue of His late Majesty in Durbar or Coronation Robes shall be erected in the grounds of the Victoria Memorial, with a drinking fountain round the base of the plinth. The Committee have approved of the general plan and detailed designs are now under preparation.

The disposal of the surplus will be decided later.

**Introduction of Provincial Autonomy : Preparations for holding elections.**

5. After the publication in April of the Orders-in-Council consequent upon the Report of the Hammond Committee for the delimitation of constituencies, the preliminary electoral rolls prepared in 1935 were completely overhauled and brought up-to-date; they were published in draft in August and in final form in October. The rolls show an electorate for the 250 seats in the Bengal Legislative Assembly of 66,22,654 voters including 9,38,851 women as against 13,44,316 including 41,931 women at the last election held under the Montagu-Chelmsford Constitution. Apart from the great increase in numbers of voters, the work was complicated by the necessity of preparing separate rolls for scheduled castes, and by the difficulties experienced in registering a large number of women unwilling to disclose their names. A very close scrutiny was also found to be necessary of the qualifications of Associations and Chambers claiming votes in the Commerce and Industry constituencies and of the 24 Trade Unions claiming votes for the 2 Trade Union constituencies, of whom ultimately 7 were declared to be constituents. The labour rolls were an entirely new departure, in the preparation of which Government received considerable help from managers of factories and other employers of labour. In addition rules had to be prepared, applying to both the Legislative Houses of Bengal, for the publication of electoral rolls, for the conduct of elections, for the regulation of election expenses and petitions, and for the prohibition of simultaneous membership of both Houses. All the rules were published in good time and the first stage of the elections, viz., the scheduled caste primary elections, was carried through in November under the new rules without a hitch. There were no election petitions. An entirely new system of voting was introduced, whereby votes were recorded by being placed in a particular ballot box marked with a distinctive symbol instead of by means of a mark upon the ballot paper.

**Political parties.**

6. There was not much activity in political circles till the late summer, but the delay in beginning did not prevent the development of a feverish degree of intensity by the end of the year. At first both the Muhammadan and the Congress politicians claimed to be leading unanimous parties, but it was not long before this solidarity was seen to be only on the surface; as autumn advanced fresh aspirants arose to compete for the millions of peasant votes and cross currents became so numerous and intermingled that it became increasingly difficult to form a clear idea of the composition or principles of any particular party, and by December it was obvious that in the coming elections personalities would play a much larger part in the minds of all sections of the electorate than considerations of party or policy.

7. Congressmen in Bengal probably have little cause to look back on the year 1936 as a happy one from their point of view. Though the party was far from inactive, as a united organisation it had ceased to be effective or to wield any influence in the wider sphere of All-India Congress policy. Bengal had only one member in the All-India Congress Working Committee; and the right of Bengal delegates to enter the Lucknow Conference was challenged on the ground that subscriptions had not been duly paid. No provincial Congress Conference was held during the year. In the elections to the Calcutta Corporation in March one-third of the Congress candidates failed, while only one of their candidates for the post of alderman was successful, with the result that the party lost the majority and power which it had enjoyed in that body for so many years. Not that individual Congressmen were inactive; but internal dissensions based on the rivalries of the past rendered them powerless to propound, much less to carry into effect, any agreed policy, and active Congress politics showed a tendency to manifest themselves in demonstrations of a rather ineffective kind. The party remained absent from the Corporation meeting at which Sir Hari Sankar Paul was elected Mayor. Attempts were made in April to provoke public indignation over the re-arrest of Mr. Subash Chandra Basu and the 10th May was announced as the day fixed for this purpose; a meeting was held in Calcutta and was made the occasion for a communist demonstration; but elsewhere in Bengal the incident passed almost unnoticed and where meetings were held they were thinly attended. Congress activities

The internal quarrels between the different sections of the Bengal Congress Committee defied two attempts at settlement by successive presidents of the All-India Congress Committee and rendered futile two attempts once by arbitration and once by election, to constitute a harmonious Provincial Congress Committee. Relations between the Bengal Committee and the All-India Committee were far from happy. The views expressed by the President at the Lucknow session were by no means generally acceptable to Bengal Congressmen, who especially were disappointed at the lack of interest displayed in their grievance against the Communal Award. The presidential address was eulogized by the nationalist papers of Bengal; but, reading between the lines, it was quite clear that a considerable body of Congress supporters felt doubt over the socialistic trend of policy it disclosed, and the opinion was expressed that the Soviet ideals of Russia might not be suitable to India. Much impatience was felt at the failure to reach a decision upon the questions of participating in the elections to the new Provincial Assemblies and of accepting office if Congress anywhere should gain a majority. Opinions upon

these two matters hardened in Bengal during the summer, and in July the *Dainik Basumati* urged the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee to throw off the shackles of the All-India Committee and to contest the elections, though it added that nothing could be gained by acceptance of office. In the same month a number of Hindu leaders had sent a memorial to the Secretary of State on the subject of the Communal Award; this was rejected, but the agitation against it did not cease and the strong support given to the agitation by one section of the Bengal Congress embarrassed the All-India Committee, whose socialistic plans for organising the peasantry *en masse* were likely to be prejudiced by such an agitation. In November the president of the All-India Congress Committee visited Calcutta and some sort of compromise was effected, but only on the surface, and the declarations of different Congressmen in their election addresses showed how much Bengal views were still at variance with the official attitude of the All-India body. In August the All-India Committee officially decided to contest the elections, but the party's manifesto showed that their aim was merely to create a deadlock and wreck the Reforms. The manifesto by no means commended itself to all Congressmen in Bengal, where difference of opinion upon the two burning questions of the Communal Award and the acceptance of office led to official Congress candidates being opposed by other Congressmen in more than one constituency. While personalities played a large part in these contests, at bottom there was also a conflict of ideas, and public utterances tend to show that as Provincial Autonomy draws near there is emerging a realisation by some Congressmen at any rate that political theories must bear some relation to realities and that the day has gone by when academical resolutions can be accepted as a substitute for a practical policy.

**Terrorist activities.**

8. Steady and unremitting pressure by Government against revolutionary parties was continued with success during the year, and was reflected in a marked waning of activity among them. The year 1936, like its predecessor, saw no major outrage and indeed almost passed without any overt action at all by revolutionaries, the single exception being a mail train robbery in April committed by a young Bengali at the point of a revolver on the Eastern Bengal Railway near Kurigram in Rangpur district. The most important arrests effected by the police were in May when Sita Nath De, who escaped from Alipore Jail while undertrial in an important conspiracy case in July 1934, was captured when in hiding in Tippera district, and in November when they apprehended Binoyendra Roy Chowdhury, a former state prisoner who had been permitted to go to Europe some years before but had returned to India unknown to Government and had remained

in hiding. But though revolutionary parties have been thoroughly disorganised, it is clear that the urge to violence has not yet been abandoned. During the year unlicensed firearms were discovered on a number of occasions, by far the most important being the seizure in February of 40 automatics with 25 spare magazines and 2,900 rounds of ammunition from a ship lying in the Kidderpore Docks: Other such discoveries of firearms were one in Darjeeling in January, two in Tippera in February and May, one in Rajshahi in September and four in Chittagong district in February, July, August and October; and explosives were discovered in Faridpur in March. Himansu Bhowmik, an absconder wanted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, had a revolver in his possession which he used when he was arrested near Feni in April, and two licensed revolvers were stolen, but quickly recovered, in Chittagong in August. Threatening letters or revolutionary literature appeared in Rangpur in January, in Chittagong and Dinajpur in February, and in a Muhammadan house in Birbhum in April, but happily such incidents were far rarer than in any recent year.

Action under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act.

9. There is still therefore sufficient revolutionary mentality in existence to preclude either the possibility or desirability of relaxing any of the efforts which are being made to counteract it, and it follows from this that the policy of detention under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act or Regulation III of 1818 of persons considered dangerous had to be continued. At the end of the year, out of a total of 3,549 persons dealt with under the Act, 201 had been released before the expiry of two months, 675 had been released unconditionally or upon terms, 308 were in home domicile, 890 in village domicile, 34 had been externed from Bengal, 1,180 were detained in jails and camps, 35 had died, 10 were untraced, orders against 2 had been allowed to lapse, 70 had been convicted, or were awaiting trial, in specific cases, and 144 were in agricultural and industrial training camps.

Government policy.

10. Nevertheless the year 1936 has seen a considerable improvement in the situation, largely as a result of the policy of Government directed towards the protection of the youth of Bengal from contact with revolutionary infection. This policy of protection, as a necessary supplement to the policy of detention, has, in the last two years, been prosecuted with increasing breadth and vigour and has followed two main lines: first, to take every opportunity of impressing on students the harmful effect of the cult of revolutionary violence by stricter vigilance over pupils in their spare time, and through the medium of dramatic performances, lectures, debates, and speeches at school prize-givings and on the occasion of large gatherings for an exhibition or cinema

show: second, to encourage the provision of counter activities, whether in the way of work or play, designed to direct their thoughts and energies into more normal and healthy channels. Recognising that the life of the ordinary students in Bengal is dull and drab, and that therefore, with no other outlet for their emotions and energies, they are inclined to be fascinated by, and to seek excitement in unhealthy activities, Government have set themselves to promote the provision of much wider facilities for participating in school games and sports and in the Boy Scout, Bratachari and Girl Guide movements, as also to encourage the engagement of the youth of the province in all forms of rural reconstruction. Their efforts in these directions received great impetus, both moral and material, during the year under review from the Government of India grant of Rs. 16 lakhs for rural improvement. From this source Rs. 1,26,000 have provided playgrounds for 87 villages, for 180 boys' schools and for 97 girls' schools. Further diversion has been provided by the institution of 112 village halls and libraries, also financed from the Government of India grant. Inter-school sports have been organised in many places, and it is to be hoped that they will both grow in number and become established as a permanent feature of school life in the country. The work of rural development has been described in more detail elsewhere. There was no lack of youthful volunteers for this work, and these have done their country the double service of helping to kill terrorism and of improving her moral and material resources. In his speech at the St. Andrew's Day dinner, His Excellency the Governor stated that his Government, impressed by the importance of the problem of the welfare of youth, had under consideration the immediate constitution of a small committee whose business it would be to evolve concrete proposals for the improvement of the health and happiness of the rising generation by well-planned methods and upon constructive and properly co-ordinated lines.

Vocational training of detenus.

11. Nor have Government efforts been confined to protection of students. They have also taken up the important question of reclaiming detenus from a life of violent vagabondage. In pursuance of the intention which Government announced in 1935 of providing facilities through vocational training for detenus to return to normal ways and earn a decent livelihood, one agricultural and two industrial camps were opened in January 1936, and a third industrial camp was opened in April. By the end of the year 59 detenus had passed out of the first two industrial camps, had been completely released and had started in business with the aid of loans from Government. Though the expense involved was necessarily heavy, Government felt that they could not

stop short at merely training these men, but that they were bound to proceed further and render them financial aid in order to establish them in the industries for which they had received training. It is expected that in January 1937, 80 more detenus will have been released after completion of their training in the third industrial camp and in the agricultural camp. Fresh batches of detenus have taken the places of those already released.

Public attitude towards terrorism.

12. But though there has been a great improvement in the situation and in the public attitude towards the curse of terrorism, there is still a minority whose actions would appear to indicate a desire to keep the spirit of terrorism alive. While it is satisfactory to find that such attempts seemed to make but little appeal to the public, it is to be regretted that attempts were made to organise public observance of a "Day" for the arrest of Mr. Subhas Bose, and another "Day" to express sympathy with "Political sufferers."

Nobody, on serious reflection, can help feeling sympathy for persons, particularly young persons, who have to spend long periods in detention, whether as detenus or convicts; nor would any one cavil at genuine humanitarian efforts to ameliorate the lot of all prisoners generally. But Government strongly hold the view that to single out persons detained, or imprisoned upon conviction, in connection with the terrorist movement as specially deserving consideration, can but serve to keep alive the spirit underlying the movement, and the special references made in speeches on the day in question to the murderess of Mr. Stevens, to the girl who attempted to shoot Sir Stanley Jackson, and to convict-prisoners in the Andamans, whither only persons are transported who have been convicted of heinous crimes, are particularly deplorable. The events of the year tend to prove that the great majority of people have come to realise the folly of subversive and violent action aimed at overthrowing constituted authority. It is even true that a number of adherents to the revolutionary cause have changed their opinions and come to the same conclusion, but it is to be feared that this change is rather one of mind than of heart, and arises more from a realisation of its futility as a practical policy than from a conviction that it is bad in principle. The situation is not yet by any means free from danger, and there has arisen of late the very real menace of a union between the old adherents of terrorism and the new devotees of communism; nor, unless the fight against terrorism is fought to a finish, can there be any assurance of a peaceful future for the political progress and economic development of Bengal under the new constitution.

**Additional garrison.**

13. At the beginning of the year the additional garrison of Bengal consisted of five battalions of the Indian Army, and for the most part was disposed in districts of East Bengal. The 2/8th Punjab Regiment and the 4/7th Rajput Regiment were stationed, respectively, at Chittagong and Saidpur, one company of the former being at Nilphamari and one from the latter at Noakhali. The 5/2nd Punjab Regiment, with headquarters at Dacca, had four platoons out on detachment in the Dacca district and six platoons in the Faridpur district. The 3/17th Dogra Regiment had its headquarters with two companies at Comilla and four detachments in the Mymensingh district and two in the Faridpur district. In West Bengal, the 2/16th Punjab Regiment, less one company at Bankura, was based at Midnapore and had four platoons out on detachment in that district. The improvement in the general situation called for less activity on the part of the troops, and fewer marches and demonstrations were undertaken than in recent years, but on the few occasions when detachments were sent out to visit villages, as at Nilphamari in Rangpur, at Sabhar in Dacca, and at various places in the Jangipur subdivision of Murshidabad district, they met with a cordial and enthusiastic reception. In the autumn all the units were changed and the additional garrison was reduced to a strength of four battalions, stationed at Dacca, Chittagong, Saidpur and Midnapore.

**Communal relations.**

14. The few occasions during the year when communal feelings were excited were of local interest only and of short duration, and never developed into any actual disturbance of the peace; nor were there any repercussions in Bengal to the communal riots in Bombay. Unnecessary heat, on the other hand, was manifested in the rhetoric of influential men in public speeches and in the Press over the dispute concerning the Muslim claim for reservation of a fixed percentage of appointments under the Calcutta Corporation, over the Hindu move to have the Communal Award set aside, and over the passage through the Legislature of the Bengal Whipping Act, which there were efforts to construe as being directed particularly against Muhammadans and therefore as constituting a slur upon the community.

**Calcutta Corporation.**

15. The beginning of the year found the Corporation still involved in the controversy over the Muslim claims for reservation of 25 per cent. of appointments under that body, and the 15 Muhammadan Councillors had not withdrawn their resignations. A Committee was appointed by the Corporation to enquire and to make recommendations, but it did nothing, and finally dissolved in July after holding only one meeting. On the failure of all

attempts to reach a settlement the Muhammadan leaders called upon their community to boycott the Corporation elections at the end of March and a large proportion responded. The seats left empty after the elections were filled by appointment. The Muhammadan sense of grievance was ventilated in the Legislative Council in March when Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy moved a resolution asking for Government to appoint a committee to enquire into the affairs of the Corporation. In course of his speech in the council Mr. Suhrawardy accused the Corporation of numerous misdemeanours and charged it with general neglect and mismanagement of its affairs; the accusations in themselves were sufficiently serious, and in the ensuing debate no one seriously attempted to refute them. The opinion of the Council was shared by many Calcutta citizens, and the general resentment against what was regarded as the Corporation's mismanagement found expression in the formation of the Ratepayers' Welfare League and similar bodies. Their activities resulted in the nomination of a number of candidates for election to the Corporation pledged to regard the needs of the city as more important than academic discussions on political issues, and their success at the polls gave rise to a hope that the new Corporation would seriously devote itself to effecting an improvement in the civic administration. This hope was further encouraged by the election of Sir Hari Sankar Pal and Mr. Abdur Rahim, C.I.E., both successful men of business, to the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The state of affairs certainly required drastic treatment. The audit report published during the year showed still further deterioration of the financial position; arrears in the realisation of consolidated rate had risen by March 1935 to the enormous figure of Rs. 44½ lakhs, for which blame is equally apportioned both to the Collection and Law Departments; arrears of license fees showed a small reduction but only at the cost of large remissions totalling Rs. 3½ lakhs, justification for which was far to seek. The Corporation had not yet finally disposed of the audit report of 1929-30 and those of subsequent years had not even been considered. Resentment against the dilatory payment of wages, corruption amongst the supervising staff and the insanitary conditions of their *bustis* had made the scavengers an easy prey for agitators, and in January an appeal was made to the Minister of Local Self-Government against the Corporation's unsympathetic attitude. The executive had so lost control over the scavengers that the aid of the police had to be sought to prevent them making disturbances outside the Corporation Office, and in August they were able to force the executive to abandon the plan for replacement of scavengers' carts by motor lorries. Except that there was only one adjournment to discuss "political" questions, and on that

occasion only for a few minutes at the end of the evening's session, there was little improvement in the disposal of business noticeable during the latter half of the year, while the usual number of complaints appeared in the Press against the habit of individual Councillors interfering with the authority and discretion of the Chief Executive Officer. Sewage disposal continued to give cause for anxiety owing to the contamination of the filtered water supply and of the canals on the east of Calcutta, while in June the Chief Engineer issued a grave warning that the sewage outflow channels were completely silted up. The new Corporation certainly has a heavy task before it if its achievements are to justify the hopes entertained of it by its electors.

**New Howrah Bridge.**

16. After long years of consideration Government approved of the construction, by the new Howrah Bridge Commissioners, of a single span cantilever bridge across the river Hooghly on a new site at a short distance from the existing floating bridge, joining Calcutta with Howrah, at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,22,48,300. The Bridge Commissioners, with the approval of Government, adopted the design prepared by Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton and accepted the tender of the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company for Rs. 2,25,00,000 for the construction of the superstructure and foundations of the bridge itself, subject to the condition that the Company will purchase in India the whole of the structural steel work obtainable in this country if they can arrange reasonable terms with Indian manufacturers. The Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company have entered into an agreement with the Braithwaite, Burn and Jessop combine for the supply of Tata's steel fabricated at site, and the local combine will construct the bridge as sub-contractors. The arrangement made means that Indian material will be used to the same extent as if the order had been placed in India. Indian labour will also be used to the same extent but certain supervising staff will be brought out from England by the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company. Government have sanctioned and guaranteed a loan of Rs. 1,50,00,000 bearing interest at 3¼ per cent. repayable after 30 years. The loan has already been raised. Lands permanently required for the construction of the approach roads leading to the Bridge on both sides of the river have been purchased from the Calcutta Port Commissioners at a lump sum price of Rs. 26,50,000. Notification has been issued to impose taxes under section 8 of the Howrah Bridge Act, 1926, with effect from 1st January 1937. Preliminary work is now being done at the sites. Excavation on a large scale is likely to begin in January 1937 and the bridge is likely to be completed within 4 years.

17. The progress of Village Self-Government in Bengal was marked by two important events during the year. First the opinion long held in many quarters that with the successful establishment of union boards, local boards had become superfluous, was given legal effect in an Act providing for the abolition of the latter, and the conferment on the former of increased responsibilities. Secondly, a beginning was made towards the constitution of union boards in Midnapore district; as subversive activities waned, the local officers found themselves able to devote more time to the question, and the very careful enquiries made confirmed the previous impression that the opposition to the introduction of the Village Self-Government Act in this district had been mainly due to misrepresentation, and that there was now a genuine desire to welcome these institutions in a considerable area of the district. By the end of the year 45 boards had been formed and had made a good start with their work, and proposals for the formation of as many more were under consideration. Village Self-Government.

18. In one respect the Press showed a slight improvement during 1936; the traditional hostility of the nationalist and extremist papers towards Government was somewhat moderated, and on two notable occasions they were able to raise their general tone much above the level of recent years. At the beginning of the year the death of His late Majesty King George V evoked a genuine expression of grief in all newspapers, and for some time afterwards they continued to publish detailed accounts of his life and pictorial descriptions of the funeral ceremonies. Again, towards the end of the year, the constitutional crisis which suddenly arose in England was treated with a very commendable restraint, the Press on this occasion revealing in general a high sense of dignity and responsibility. Strong support was unanimously given to His Excellency's efforts to secure financial justice for Bengal, and mild approval was expressed at Government's action in banning the "Face of Mother India," for their scheme for training detenus, and for the Viceroy's address to the Central Board of Irrigation in November. But throughout the year the extremist papers were generally engaged in carping at each other over domestic politics and communal issues when they could not find anything over which to unite in carping at Government. Though terrorism was vigorously condemned, the tone of editorial articles and the general manner of presentation of news items went to show that as much enthusiasm was reserved for opposition to Government's policy and plans for fighting terrorism. Condemnation of the system of detention continued throughout the year, and there was a persistent demand for the abolition of transportation to the Andamans, for the repeal of all special laws Press.

designed to combat violence, for the release of all detenus and for the preferential treatment of socalled "political" convicts. The general attitude was illustrated by the jubilation over Government's very narrow margin of victory (by the President's casting vote only) on Mr. B. Das's motion in the Indian Legislative Assembly for amendment of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, and over Government's defeat on Mr. Aney's motion for a token cut in the grant to the Home Department of the Government of India, while Mr. Satyamurti's motion for repeal of "repressive laws" was declared to reflect public opinion on the matter. In the same strain great indignation was expressed at the arrest of Mr. Subash Chandra Basu on his return to India, and wide publicity was given to the proposal to celebrate a "Day" in this connection, as also later in the year, a "Political Sufferers' Day." In March the find, upon a wide-scale search, of masses of communist literature in Calcutta was declared to herald a desire by Government to initiate another Meerut Conspiracy case, while in September the application of the Bengal Public Security Act to Calcutta and suburbs was strongly condemned as constituting an attempt to stifle the legitimate activities of Trade Unions, in spite of Government's express declaration to the contrary. The departure of Lord Willingdon served as an excuse for inveighing against the "oppressive firmness" of his administration, while the warmth of the welcome accorded to Lord Linlithgow and his inaugural broadcast address was tempered by the expression of doubts whether any Viceroy, however good his intentions, could bring much benefit to India under the existing system of Government. Of a similar nature were captious comments to the effect that the new Viceroy's concern for the cultivator was aimed merely at the perpetuation of British Imperialism, and that His Excellency the Governor's scheme for rural reconstruction emanated from a wish to strengthen Government's "iron grip" on the countryside, and the charge of insincerity levelled at His Excellency when, in a speech delivered on the occasion of the opening of the *Kurulia khal* at Brahmanbaria, he spoke on the desirability of cultivating habits of self-reliance. Another handle against Government was found in the scarcity prevailing in West Bengal, Government being accused of wishing to minimise the distress and of making inadequate provision for relief. The prompt and stringent action taken in England over the leakage of budget proposals was contrasted with the alleged laxity of the Government of India in dealing with the disclosures concerning the post-war Munitions Board, and the new rules promulgated by the Secretary of State for recruitment of Europeans to the I.C.S. were bitterly resented as being merely designed to perpetuate the domination of the British element in the service. In foreign

affairs, the League of Nations was castigated for its failure to save Abyssinia, and Britain's action in withdrawing sanctions against Italy met with severe disapproval, while sympathy was expressed for the Spanish people in their struggle against Fascism; the disturbances in Palestine were represented as a national revolt against Imperialism and Britain was accused of trying to foist an unwanted form of Government upon the country. Mention has been made above of the intemperate language used in certain papers in dealing with controversies affecting communal interests. From the tone of many articles published in 1936 it appears that as yet the Press has failed to realise the risks of rousing communal feeling or its responsibility for treating these questions in a more dispassionate manner. The impending constitutional changes came in for continual condemnation, and the Hammond Committee Report on delimitation of constituencies and the Niemeyer Report on financial arrangements were both criticised as doing injustice to Bengal. But by the end of the year the earlier attitude of uncompromising hostility to the Reforms had weakened, being replaced by frequent attempts to reconcile previous professions of aloofness with a desire to share in the power which was being transferred. During the year 27 warnings were conveyed to newspapers by the Press Officer and security was demanded from five newspapers and four presses, while the security of one press and one newspaper was forfeited. It is satisfactory to observe that the number of warnings was considerably less than in 1935 and that they progressively decreased as the year advanced.

Failure of crops in West Bengal.

19. Apprehensions felt at the end of 1935 that acute distress would later prevail in parts of Western Bengal proved unfortunately to be true, and relief operations had to be undertaken by Government over a wide area practically throughout the first 9 months of the year. The distress was due to two successive bad harvests of *aman* paddy in 1934 and 1935. In 1934 the northern half of the Burdwan Division and the district of Murshidabad were affected: in 1935 the monsoon suddenly faded out on September 23rd and no rain fell till January 1936. The drought continued throughout the cold weather and the result was that the *aman* paddy and *rabi* crops were ruined. Every district in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions was affected in varying degrees: Midnapore and Howrah only slightly, parts of Nadia and Jessore rather more seriously: 24-Parganas and the Western part of Khulna were afflicted with very serious distress, while scarcity had to be officially declared to be prevailing throughout Birbhum, a large part of Burdwan, the Sadar subdivision of Bankura, two thanas of 24-Parganas, and the whole of the "Rarh" tract of Murshidabad, a total area amounting to more than 7,000 square

miles inhabited by over 3 million people. The area somewhat less seriously affected, but subject to real distress, amounted to 7,800 square miles, with a population of over 4 million.

**Government's relief measures.**

20. The measures adopted to deal with this situation included Test Relief Works (Rs. 6,92,335), Gratuitous Relief (Rs. 4,69,019), Agricultural Loans (Rs. 35,90,765) and Land Improvement Loans (Rs. 2,35,244). On receipt of a report from the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division Government acted promptly, and early in January 1936 appointed an Additional Commissioner for the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions to supervise and co-ordinate all relief measures, and placed under him a special staff of 25 Sub-Deputy Collectors and 29 Settlement-Kanungos to work as relief officers, each officer being placed in charge of organising test works and distributing money for loans and relief in a selected area.

**Test relief works.**

21. In accordance with the principle adopted the first step was to start test relief works to gauge the measure of distress. Naturally those districts in which test works had been in operation in 1935 had less trouble in organising works than districts like Burdwan, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Khulna in which test works had been unknown for many years. Generally programmes were quickly prepared, but in one or two districts difficulty was experienced in arranging the actual commencement of work, and some disorganisation was caused through the appearance of unexpectedly large crowds of labourers attracted by comparatively generous rates of wages and through attempts to pay labourers individually instead of by sub-gangs. Personal tours in all the affected districts convinced the Additional Commissioner that the situation would be eased by the introduction of a greater degree of uniformity in the rates of wages and in the methods of payment. The methods followed in Murshidabad and Birbhum where work had been progressing smoothly, were adopted as a model and gradually introduced with standardised rates in all other districts. A temporary refusal to work resulted in Burdwan and Hooghly, but after a few days labourers returned, though in reduced and manageable numbers. It was found in Khulna and 24-Parganas that customary conditions made it necessary to increase slightly the rates of wages standardized for Burdwan Division. Whereas in the extreme West of Bengal whole families come to work and are accustomed to work hard for low wages, it was found in Khulna and 24-Parganas that although a very acute degree of distress had been reached, still the local people were not prepared to come to the relief works at the rate of wages prescribed. On the Additional Commissioner's first visit to the 24-Parganas test works he found something like panic prevailing through the fear

of starvation; but with a slight increase in the rate of wages and an immediate distribution of doles of paddy to women and children the situation improved, and on his next visit the Commissioner found confidence restored and all works proceeding smoothly.

By the middle of March test works were in full swing in 24-Parganas, Khulna and Murshidabad and in all districts of the Burdwan Division except Midnapore and Howrah. The numbers employed daily in these seven districts averaged as follows:—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| February | ... | ... | ... | 13,223 |
| March | ... | ... | ... | 36,104 |
| April | ... | ... | ... | 59,706 |
| May | ... | ... | ... | 63,833 |
| June | ... | ... | ... | 43,796 |

In most districts the peak figure was reached about the end of April, but in Bankura during May the figure was nearly doubled, dropping heavily again in June. With an early onset of the monsoon at the end of May and the commencement of normal cultivation the attendance at test relief works began to fall. In July attendance fell so low and weather conditions became so impossible for earthwork that all test works were closed down and gratuitous relief had correspondingly to be extended. After the monsoon, test works were reopened only in Bankura and Murshidabad and were finally closed in both districts by the middle of October. Test works were also still necessary in Khulna and 24-Parganas, but were quite impracticable owing to natural conditions. The ground in the Sunderbans area for instance remains water-logged for so long after the monsoon has ceased that no earthwork can be done till January.

Gratuitous relief.

22. The arrangements for distribution of gratuitous relief were made as soon as the attendance at test relief works showed that this was necessary. Distribution continued throughout the hot weather, and was increased everywhere during the monsoon season when test works were impossible. With the reopening of test works in Bankura and Murshidabad districts after the monsoon, gratuitous relief was slightly curtailed there, but elsewhere it had to be continued on the full monsoon scale. In Khulna and 24-Parganas distress was most acute at the end of the transplanting season and as no test works were possible there, gratuitous relief had to be very greatly increased.

The total amount distributed by Government as gratuitous relief in 1936 was Rs. 4,69,019. Money doles were distributed at the daily rate of 3 pice for an adult and 2 pice for a child, and

for the first time in the history of famine relief the rate prescribed for women was not less than that prescribed for men. The distribution everywhere was made through village distributors on the basis of lists drawn up by village committees constituted for this purpose, the work being supervised and checked by frequent visits of the relief officers. Besides the regular doles to persons on these lists, *i.e.*, purdanashin ladies, the aged, the sick and those otherwise unfit to work, the distributors were provided with extra funds for the purpose of casual relief in emergency cases. Accounts of the village distributors were kept by means of muster rolls with payees receipts, which were sent through relief officers to the Collector's office.

**Non-official efforts.**

23. The same organisation and agencies were generally used for distribution of privately supplied charitable relief and chances of overlapping were thus minimised. Generally speaking, with two or three notable exceptions, the efforts made for the organisation of charitable relief from private sources were not as strenuous as might have been expected, partly perhaps because the general public were slow to realise the extent and intensity of the distress in West Bengal. The exceptions were the district Relief Committees of Birbhum, 24-Parganas and Hooghly, all of whom raised considerable sums of money and gave valuable assistance; the efforts of the Birbhum Committee under the energetic leadership of the District Judge Mr. B. K. Guha, I.C.S., were particularly commendable and showed what a determined body of public-spirited men is capable of achieving. In this connection special mention must also be made of the charitable relief work done by the Ram Krishna Mission in police-station Shamnagar, district Khulna. The work done by other organisations was hardly commensurate with the extravagant claims made by some of them in the Press.

To prevent the distress developing into real famine the Government relief organisation was very rapidly brought into operation, and to prevent sensational rumours helping to cause a panic the officers engaged in the work, as also the Press, were requested not to give public expression to feelings of apprehension. This restraint was wrongly interpreted in some quarters as indicating a reluctance on the part of Government to take such measures and to make such provisions as the gravity of the situation really demanded. How far this inference was from the truth is proved by the fact that not a single case of death due to starvation occurred throughout the whole period of scarcity. Allegations to such effect were not wanting, but in each case were disproved on careful investigation.

**Land Improvement Loans.**

24. Land Improvement Loans, which are a valuable means of providing employment for the distressed through encourage-

ment of "private works," were taken freely in some areas but not in others. The amounts required varied to some extent in accordance with the energy and personal influence of the local officers, but generally speaking the number of private works, aided or unaided, was greatest where there were many affluent residents, owning land but not entirely dependent upon rents for their livelihood. Private works by the great zemindars were disappointingly few, but it is to be remembered that all land-holders had been severely handicapped by inability to collect rents for some years past.

Agricultural Loans.

25. From the beginning a close watch was kept upon the need for distribution of agricultural loans, and preliminary enquiries were made to facilitate distribution when it should become necessary, and in consequence there was no delay in granting these loans as and when necessity arose. In spite of the large sum provided for agricultural loans it was impossible to satisfy all demands, but care was taken to ensure that no good land should go out of cultivation for lack of money. The unusually heavy demand for such loans (the amount actually distributed was only just under Rs. 36 lakhs) was largely due to reluctance on the part of money-lenders to make loans to the same extent as they had done on similar occasions in the past, a reluctance which was partly due to the poor realisation of dues in recent years and partly to a misapprehension that the provisions of the Agricultural Debtors Act would still further increase difficulties of realisation in the future.

Rural Development.

26. In spite of the scarcity in West Bengal, the year 1936 was one of great hope and promise for rural Bengal. Action was continued upon schemes already under way such as the land mortgage banks, the campaign for jute restriction, and the demonstration parties for cottage industries. The measures which had been adopted in the previous year in certain districts for debt conciliation and for eradication of water-hyacinth were extended to the whole province and were given legal sanction upon the passing of the Agricultural Debtors Act and the Water-Hyacinth Act. Further relief of unemployment was foreshadowed in the schemes formulated for an Industrial Credit Corporation and for an Agricultural Institute. With the aid of a grant from the Government of India the Bengal Government was enabled to finance schemes of far-reaching importance to Agriculture and to the Co-operative Credit organisation. Progress in provision of village amenities was accelerated and other new lines of activity were promoted in the districts by local officers.

**Land Mortgage banks.**

27. Five land mortgage banks continued to operate at Mymensingh, Comilla, Pabna, Jessore and Suri. The total working capital of these banks increased from Rs. 30,820 to Rs. 2,02,113 and membership from 617 to 1,087. The total amount of loans issued during the year was Rs. 1,90,300 as against Rs. 23,435 of the previous year.

A definite beginning has been made, but the greatest caution has to be exercised in granting loans. Progress made might be considered disappointingly slow, but unexpected obstacles have been encountered, such as unwillingness of non-members to join in the execution of the mortgage bond, and the inability of applicants to produce sureties, which two difficulties actually necessitated the rejection of 487 applications. In addition, the introduction of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act has tended to delay applications through a natural desire on the part of the debtors to try to obtain better terms from their creditors through the conciliation boards before applying to the banks for a loan.

By the end of June 1936, 2,678 applications had been received by all banks including 1,608 for Rs. 8,11,986 of the previous year. During the year the banks investigated and considered 1,915 applications for a total amount of Rs. 9,67,341 and actually advanced Rs. 2,13,735 in 484 cases out of 757 applications accepted and allowed. Ninety per cent. of the loans advanced were for liquidation of old debts and a small amount for redemption of mortgages.

**Jute restriction.**

28. During the year Government reviewed the results of the previous year's efforts to reduce surplus stocks of jute by voluntary restriction of acreage in the light of the figures of arrivals and despatches for Calcutta and Chittagong, and were satisfied that the campaign for restriction together with the drought of March-April 1935 had led to the reduction of stocks in the province at the end of June 1936 by 25 lakhs of bales as compared with the stocks at the end of June 1935. Nevertheless it appeared that the carry over was still too large to allow of the natural free play of the laws of supply and demand, and therefore Government decided to continue in 1936 the policy of restriction and to recommend to the cultivators that sowings should not exceed two-thirds of the acreage planted in 1934. It is impossible to state with any certainty what were the results, but if consumption during the first six months of 1937 continues at the same rate as during the last six months of 1936 it seems probable that by June 1937 stocks will have still further decreased by 15 to 20 lakhs of bales. Instructed opinion in Calcutta holds that the final forecast for 1936 may prove to have been an under-estimate, but it may fairly safely be claimed

that the campaign for restriction prevented the large increase in acreage which otherwise would naturally have been brought about by the very favourable weather conditions prevailing at the sowing season following the rise in price during 1935.

Demonstration parties for minor industries.

29. Good progress continued to be made with the scheme for relief of unemployment by training bhadralok youths in industries suitable for homes or small factories. The number of demonstration parties maintained for this purpose was enlarged, and new ones were added for tanning and coir-weaving; in addition two parties were temporarily employed for showing the possibilities of manufacturing admixtures of jute with cotton, wool and silk, and their products proved to be so popular that the Bengal Home Industries Association in Calcutta pressed for a regular supply to meet the demand.

Soap-making continued to attract a large number of students, 149 being trained during the year. Successful experiments have resulted on the one hand in simplifying the processes of manufacturing umbrellas (61 students under training), pottery (38 students trained), and brass and bell-metal (40 students trained), and on the other hand in extending the variety and improving the quality of the products: at the same time costs of production in these three industries respectively have been reduced by the introduction of labour-saving devices, of a new kind of kiln, and of new alloys from copper and tin mixed with waste aluminium and German-silver scrap. In cutlery two new departures were made: The addition of metallurgy to the syllabus of training has been justified in the results, and a successful beginning was made in the manufacture of surgical instruments. Similar improvements were made in teaching hand-loom weaving and allied occupations, and altogether in 17 centres 214 persons were trained in spinning waste silk and tussore, jute, wool and sunn hemp, and in weaving, dyeing and printing in fast colours silk, jute, wool and cotton. Following the demonstrations, over one hundred looms and carpet frames and other appliances of an improved type were acquired by trained students, as well as a large number of printing blocks and dyestuffs, by means of which they have been enabled to double the income which they could previously earn. The two jute and two wool-weaving courses proved to be very popular, 73 students passing out, of whom 34 have since started 24 factories of their own (two more being employed in existing factories) for production of jute rugs, mats, bags, screens and nets, and woollen wrappers, fancy-bordered shawls, mufflers and carpets, *saris* of mixed wool and silk and shirtings of mixed wool and cotton. In February 1936 four new parties started to train 38 students in coir-weaving,

and the keenest interest is being shown. Tanning and shoe-making were each demonstrated at seven centres, from which 73 and 33 students, respectively, were trained, of whom 21 and 20 have since set up their own business.

**Industrial Credit Corporation.**

30. Wherever they went the demonstration parties were received with enthusiasm and their products viewed with interest and admiration. Their activities resulted in the practical industrial training of over 800 students, of whom a considerable number have already been settled in employment. The number of those setting up as independent artisans would have been greater but for the difficulty of finance, but it is hoped that this difficulty too will find its solution in the new enterprise of a commercial syndicate known as the Industrial Credit Corporation. The purpose of this syndicate is to finance persons wishing to set up business of their own, particularly of a manufacturing or productive nature, having a reasonable prospect of success but lacking the necessary capital funds. Anxious to promote or encourage by all possible means any practical scheme for reducing unemployment, Government have agreed to assist this undertaking by giving a guarantee—

(*a*) to make an annual grant-in-aid for the first five years of the Company's operation amounting to Rs. 20,000 or to the actual expenses of administration, whichever may be less:

(*b*) to make good half of any loss which may be incurred in respect of the first ten lakhs of rupees lent, or in respect of subsequent loans up to an amount not exceeding the portion of the first ten lakhs which shall have already been repaid.

Government have approved the Articles of Association, the prospectus and the terms of agreement, and the deed has been forwarded to the Managing Agents of the syndicate for execution.

**Agricultural Debtors Act, 1935.**

31. Operations under this Act commenced in July 1936 and by the end of the year conciliation boards were working in all the districts of the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions except Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and also in the districts of Midnapore and Howrah. In all, 706 ordinary boards have been established, while 449 more are in process of formation. Eight special boards with compulsory powers have been established and three others are being set up. To facilitate the working of the Act 63 special officers have been appointed after a short period of training.

Water-Hyacinth Act, 1936.

32. The Act came into force in March 1936; since then steps have been taken in most of the affected districts for the destruction of water hyacinth; particular energy was shown in Mymensingh where action was organised on systematic lines throughout the district, and three special weeks were arranged at intervals for intensive effort. Such is the readiness of the public to take part in the work that nowhere has it been found necessary to apply the compulsory or penal provisions of the Act. It is hoped that action on these lines, if regularly sustained, will go a long way towards the complete eradication of this pest from Bengal.

Co-operative Credit Movement.

33. Measures of first class importance were taken to reorganise and revitalise the Co-operative Banks and Societies and to re-establish the movement on a sounder basis. The superior staff was greatly strengthened by the appointment of two officers of the Indian Civil Service as Joint Secretary, Agriculture and Industries Department, and as Deputy Registrar. Schemes were formulated and put in motion for the reduction of the rates of interest charged by the Provincial Bank with the ultimate object of affording relief to Primary Societies, and in this connection the Legislative Council at the end of its last session approved of a proposal for an annual subsidy from Government of Rs. 2 lakhs for 12 years to the Provincial Bank and actually sanctioned the first instalment. Consequent upon the offer from the Government of India of a lump grant of Rs. 3 lakhs, two schemes were prepared (*a*) for the intensive training of all officers of the department in all branches of co-operative work, and (*b*) for a very considerable increase of the departmental staff. In pursuance of these schemes twelve officers of the department were deputed for 4 months' training to the Punjab in November 1936, and a large proportion of the increased staff ultimately aimed at was sanctioned by Government and will be entertained as soon as the men can be trained after the return of the officers deputed to the Punjab.

Agricultural innovations.

34. Four hundred and fifty union board farms were established for popularising new crops, for demonstrating the advantages of the proper use of manure and for local multiplication of improved paddy seed, the distribution of which on an effective scale had always been hampered by the prohibitive cost of transportation. One thousand pure-bred bulls were imported from the Punjab and distributed among ten districts, to be maintained by selected cultivators; simultaneously, as a necessary corollary, farmers in these ten districts were urged to sterilise local useless stock and to arrange for an adequate supply of good fodder, and by the end of October over six thousand scrub bulls had been castrated and 26 lakhs of Napier grass cuttings had been distributed and planted. Action taken on similar lines but on a

smaller scale for the improvement of poultry produced an equally enthusiastic response. Mention must also be made of one other notable benefit conferred on agriculturists during the year, by the Veterinary Department. For the first time inoculation of cattle by goat tissue vaccine instead of by plain serum was carried out on a wide scale during a very severe epidemic of rinderpest and proved highly successful; not only is it much more efficacious than the old method, but also cheaper and easier to prepare. As a result of this discovery cattle epidemics should be controlled with far less difficulty in the future, and cultivators rendered less liable to sudden and wholesale losses.

**Village improvement.**

35. The playgrounds, village halls and libraries provided out of the Government of India grant have already been mentioned. In addition 134 union board dispensaries were constructed and furnished with necessary initial equipment, while over 800 tube-wells and 250 other wells were sunk and 32 tanks excavated. The grant from the Government of India also made it possible to take up a number of irrigation and drainage schemes which had so long been pigeon-holed for lack of funds: during the year the re-excavation of Satla bheel and Banfal-Devipasha and Betna khals in Bakarganj was completed, as also that of Protapkhali khal in Midnapore, while the Noakhali-Betna scheme in Khulna, the Gomai bheel scheme in Chittagong and the flushing of Toongi and Bhagangat bheels in Nadia were under progress. In addition funds were allotted for nine other approved schemes which were sent for execution to the district boards concerned.

**Local enterprise.**

36. But perhaps the most important feature of rural development during the year, bearing the greatest promise for the future, was the change in the mental and moral outlook of the rural population and the awakening of a new spirit of self-help. Inspired by the leadership of local officers villagers threw off their previous attitude of apathy and despair and evinced eagerness to participate in any co-operative effort for rural improvement. A few particular instances may be quoted. Landholders in Bankura readily adopted the suggestion that all people having suitable land should plant at least two fruit trees in a given week; in Rangpur a cigar-manufacturing society was inaugurated at Gajaghanta; in Dacca a veterinary dispensary was opened at Sripur; in Tippera Sadar subdivision a number of union board presidents opened small seed demonstration farms in addition to those established with the Government grant; in Bongaon subdivision of Jessore district three union board dispensaries were opened (other than those constructed from the Government grant); in Dinajpur an agricultural association was formed for proper organisation of the sugar-cane industry; in Midnapore provision was made for games and

physical exercise in all high schools of the district. Rural development associations on a large scale were working in Bankura, Bogra, Serajganj subdivision of Pabna and in Brahmanbaria subdivision of Tippera, while throughout the province, over 300 smaller rural reconstruction co-operative societies have been registered. "Model village" competitions were organised in Bogra, Bankura and parts of Burdwan.

Voluntary labour.

37. The most remarkable manifestation of this new spirit was seen in the ready response to the call for voluntary manual labour, when attempts were made to apply to other schemes of rural improvement the method which had proved so successful in dealing with water-hyacinth. A notable undertaking on this line was started in January in Brahmanbaria subdivision where the Kurulia khal was re-excavated over a length of 3¼ miles 70 feet wide and 10 feet deep; towns-people and villagers, bhadraloks and cultivators all worked together, in daily numbers of ten thousand or more, many coming in from villages 20 miles distant. This achievement and the encouraging speech delivered by His Excellency when he opened the khal helped to stimulate similar action elsewhere, and many re-excavation schemes were taken up and executed by voluntary labour. In Rangpur the Lakshmitari khal 2½ miles long; in Tippera Beharmondal khal 1 mile long; in Bakarganj Debra-Hadua khal 7½ miles long with two branches each 1½ miles long and Ranapasa Katipara khal 2 miles long; in Magura subdivision several khals to a total length of 6 miles. In Mymensingh the silted up mouth of the river Narsanda near Kishoreganj was opened over a length of 3½ miles, which work, if paid for at contract rates, would have cost at least Rs. 15,000. Village communications were much improved in some areas in Bogra, and in Bakarganj where Gabhan union board constructed 14 miles of roads and 36 wooden bridges. If good leadership can succeed in maintaining this spirit and in harnessing to practical schemes the enthusiasm for co-operative effort which undoubtedly exists, there is no limit to the improvement which may be effected in every aspect of rural life.

Publicity: Cinema parties.

38. Twelve peripatetic cinema parties, each equipped with films on agriculture, industries, public health and other subjects of interest, continued to educate public opinion in matters relating to health, economics and industries. The parties paid successful visits to as many as 1,674 centres in the province and nearly twenty lakhs of people attended the shows that were given. The parties were also provided with new films, loud-speakers and gramophones to make their shows more interesting. As before, official and non-official speakers explained to the illiterate mass the significance of these films and the lessons to be drawn from them.

The growing popularity of the cinema parties in the mufassal amply shows the efficacy of this form of publicity in furthering the progress of rural uplift.

**Publicity van.**

39. The Publicity van continued to be a centre of attention for the rural people. Wherever it went it formed the nucleus of local fairs and specially organised exhibitions. Its distinctive mode of instruction combined with amusement attracts people in large numbers. Wherever the van goes people flock to it and go back imbued with new ideas. The van visited 119 centres during the year under review, and drew audiences totalling two and half lakhs of people of both sexes.

**Wireless broadcast.**

40. As in the previous year, talks on economic, educational and other subjects of popular interest were broadcast from the Indian State Broadcasting Station, Calcutta (since known as All-India Radio, Calcutta Station), and arrangements were made to publish them promptly in the newspapers in order to secure wide publicity for them. During the year under review fifteen receiving sets were installed in different villages of the Midnapore district and by an arrangement with the All-India Radio, talks of interest to villagers were regularly broadcast from the Calcutta Station.

**Press notes.**

41. Notes were regularly issued to the press from time to time giving news about the activities of Government in various spheres. As a source of authentic news relating to the different departments of Government, they were well-received by all sections of the press in the province and even outside it.

## Industrial Review.

**Industrial disputes.**

42. In spite of continuous and inflammatory agitation among workers in and around Calcutta there were but few disturbances, and with one exception strikes were either of minor importance or for short periods only. During the first three months of the year repeated attempts were made to bring out Corporation workers on strike and these only ceased after the conviction in March of the vice-president of their union upon charges of inciting them to violence. Efforts were started in February to cause a general stoppage of work among employees of the Inland Steamer Companies, but by May they had come to an end. In April changes in the hours of work and in the rates of pay produced a one-week strike, involving 25,000 men, in the Nadia, Anglo-India and Hukumchand Jute Mills; in the latter mill the beginning of the strike was marked with considerable violence, and rioting also

occurred in Hooghly Jute Mill in May when the management moved to eject some strikers from the coolie lines. For the rest of the year there was peace until December, when a call for a general strike on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway received an unexpectedly wide response from the goods traffic staff and workshop employees. Work had not been resumed by the end of the year.

**Trade Unions and communism.**

43. Actual strikes during 1936 were not so disquieting a feature of the industrial history of the year as were the frequent signs of growing fusion of communism with labour organisations. In March, when the payment of wages Bill was being passed in to law by the Indian Legislative Assembly, the Bengal Trade Union Rights Defence Committee and the Bengal Branch of the All-India Trade Union Congress organised meetings to protest against the insertion of the clause which penalised lightning strikes. In the same month the latter body made a violent attack on capitalists accompanied by sympathetic references to the socialism of the Soviet states and by the statement that the replacement of the present system of Government by a "Workers Raj" would eliminate all the evils of unemployment. Labour associations were prominent in the demonstration of 10th May against the arrest of Mr. Subhas Bose and again they played a very active part in the proceedings on "Political Sufferers" Day. In August the Bengal Committee of the Trade Union Congress protested against the ban on labour demonstrations, and the Bengal Labour Party organised a Workers' and Peasants' Conference, attended by 350 persons, mostly students and agitators, and marked by an advocacy of communism in its most rampant forms. Trade Union leaders, neglecting their real function of striving to improve the conditions under which their members work and live, devoted their energies to a sedulous preaching of communist and revolutionary doctrines, and at many of the union meetings these were the sole topics of discussion, on two occasions, in particular, the presidents being ex-convicts of the Meerut Conspiracy case. Through the summer and autumn the tenets of communism were more and more industriously propagated and the display of revolutionary slogans and communist symbols became a regular feature of labour meetings, till in September Government decided as a precautionary measure to apply the provisions of the Bengal Public Security Act to Calcutta and its suburbs. This action raised a storm of protest from those against whom it was directed, but was welcomed by the Bengal Trades Union Federation as helping to foster *bona fide* labour organisations. It was not long before positive proof of its necessity was afforded by the discovery in November for the second time in the year of a mass of communist literature in Calcutta revealing the existence of a widespread organisation. The only other instance of any non-official attempt to stem the rising tide

of communism in labour circles was the warning in this behalf given by the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca in his presidential address in January to the Bengal Mariners Union. Otherwise the dangerous potentialities inherent in the present drift of labour politics apparently passed unheeded. It has always been the aim of the local Government to foster and encourage *bona fide* Trade Unionism which aims at the real welfare of the workers, and it is sincerely to be hoped that all who genuinely wish to promote this end will co-operate with Government in their attempts to direct the labour movement into healthy and useful channels and to save it from subjection to those communist and revolutionary doctrines which, utterly alien as they are to true Trade Unionism and slavishly imitative of foreign ideas, can only result in its destruction.

## Legislative Review.

**Sessions.**

44. The life of the Bengal Legislative Council which was due to expire by the end of June 1936, was extended for the last time up to the 31st March 1937. The grouping of the parties underwent no change during the year under review. Only two sessions were held in the year, from the 12th February to the 30th March, and from the 9th November to the 4th December, during which the Council actually sat for 34 days. The Council adjourned on the first meeting day of the year, as a token of respect, upon the death of His late Majesty the King-Emperor George V; and the Council sent through His Excellency the Governor a message of loyalty and devotion upon the accession of His Majesty King Edward VIII.

**Acts passed.**

45. During the year 12 Acts were passed; of these, two amended the Calcutta Municipal Act, so as to enfranchise owners of motor vehicles for purposes of municipal elections and to restore the *status quo* in respect of the payment of license-fees to the Corporation by professional men paying income-tax. Four other Acts dealt with Local Self-Government in the mufassal; one removed anomalies noticed in the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, and prohibited prostitution in melas and fairs within municipal limits; another provided for the recognition of associations formed with the object of promoting the interests of Local Self-Government; by the third, local boards could be abolished in any area with the consent of the district board, and the term of office of district boards was extended from 4 to 5 years; and the fourth removed certain anomalies appertaining to the taking of the oath of allegiance by members of local boards. Land Revenue Administration received attention in three Acts providing for assessment

to revenue of accretions to revenue-free estates, for special assessment of non-agricultural lands, and for the investment of sale money in deposit with the Collector pending the decision of a civil court on a suit for the reversal of sale of a patni taluk. The Presidency Towns Insolvency (Bengal Amendment) Act enacted that the Official Assignee must be a salaried official under the administrative control of the local Government and under the judicial control of the Calcutta High Court. The Water-Hyacinth Act speaks for itself; and lastly the Bengal Whipping Act provided whipping as an additional punishment for certain offences against women.

Bills pending

46. No Government Bills were pending at the end of the year. Of the 15 non-official measures brought before the council five were withdrawn on the recommendation of the Select Committees to which they had been referred, two were rejected by the Council, two were permitted to be withdrawn, one lapsed and its continuance was refused by the Council, and one was not proceeded with by the sponsor. At the end of the year four remained pending, while eleven more which were on the agenda were not reached within the time allotted for discussion of non-official Bills.

Questions.

47. There was a reduction in the number of questions asked during the year, only 458 being received as against 796 of 1935. Replies were given to 360, 35 lapsed and 63 were disallowed or withdrawn.

Resolutions.

48. Resolutions numbered 134, but only 7 actually came up for discussion. Two were lost, one recommending the fixation of a minimum price of jute and paddy, and the other the early release of all persons detained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act or other similar Acts: two, one recommending that the grant for primary education of women be raised by Rs. 20,000 and the other that a revised scheme of pensions for process-servers be given immediate effect to, were withdrawn; one to the effect that none but Bengalis should be granted professional driving licenses under the Motor Vehicles Act was talked out; one for the immediate reduction of fees payable by students of all schools and colleges was not moved; the seventh resolution recommending that provision should be made for the liquidation of illiteracy within 10 years was carried without a division.

Annual Budget grants.

49. The budget for 1936-37 was presented on the 24th February and the general discussion took place on the 28th February and 2nd March. The usual time of 12 days was allotted for discussion of the annual grants; this began on the 13th of March and concluded after eleven days. All the demands were

granted in full. Of the 109 cut motions, 42 were withdrawn after discussion, 65 were lost without a division, and two were lost by a majority of votes.

On the presentation of the report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1934-35 the Council voted Rs. 31,418 to regularise expenditure incurred during that year in excess of sanctioned grants.

Thirteen supplementary or additional grants were voted by the Council during the year to a total of Rs. 52,26,720, of which sum the major portion, Rs. 43,75,000, was required for famine relief measures in West Bengal. Other additional grants included Rs. 2,00,000 for land revenue, Rs. 1,70,000 for agriculture and Rs. 65,500 for advances to detenus who have undergone industrial training. Token grants were sanctioned in order to make funds available for the following schemes:—

(*a*) Construction of Sevoke-Bagrokote Road.

(*b*) Construction of the road bridge over the Damodar at Burdwan.

(*c*) Preliminary work for construction of buildings at new subdivisional headquarters, Madaripur.

(*d*) Entertainment of supervising and marketing staff to establish trained detenus in business.

(*e*) Construction of buildings for the proposed Agricultural Institute at Daulatpur in Khulna.

**Special motions.**

50. A special motion under section 78A of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules and standing orders asking for the Council's approval to the proposed agreement between Government and the Industrial Credit Corporation described above in paragraph 30 was carried without a division.

# Part II.

## CHAPTER I.

## States, Forces, External Affairs.

### Cooch Behar.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1935-36.]

General.

1. Area—1,318 square miles.

Population—590,866.

Chief products—Rice, mustard seed, jute, tobacco.

Military force—199 (including 91 armed police).

Present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur of Cooch Behar.

Political Agent.

2. During the year under review Mr. F. W. Robertson, C.I.E., I.C.S., was the Political Agent.

Financial.

3. The revenue for the year amounting to Rs. 29,62,494 against Rs. 28,63,347 of the previous year showing an increase of Rs. 99,147.

The expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 26,87,238 against Rs. 25,68,326 of the previous year showing an increase of Rs. 1,18,912.

State Railway.

4. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway during the year under report were Rs. 3,82,641 and the working expenses charged for the year Rs. 1,72,189. The sum actually received in cash during the year from the Chief Accounts Officer, Eastern Bengal Railway, was Rs. 1,97,193.

Crops and condition of the people.

5. The rainfall during the year was 151·02 inches against 131·58 inches of the previous year and the normal rainfall of 130·60 inches. The price of common rice ranged from Rs. 2-12 to Rs. 3-8 per maund; of mustard seed from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6-4 per maund; of jute from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5-4 per maund and tobacco from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 per maund. The weather conditions were not entirely favourable to the growth of jute. The tobacco plants were affected by want of seasonable rain. The Agriculture

Department was under the control of the Revenue Officer of the state throughout the year. He did demonstration and propaganda work mainly in connection with the substitution of crops on an economic basis. Demonstration areas were opened in the fields of the cultivators for the cultivation of improved varieties of *aus* and *aman* paddy and of jute, with the result that the outturns per bigha was larger than that of the local varieties. Three hundred and twenty bighas of land as against 110 bighas of the previous year were brought under sugarcane cultivation. By speedy multiplication of the cuttings which has now become possible, it is hoped that at no distant date this new crop may count as one of the major crops of the state. Three crushing mills and 6 pans were let out on hire and 2 crushing mills were supplied free to the new cane growers. Two other crushing mills owned by the cultivators were also utilized for crushing purposes and arrangements were made for demonstration of *gur* boiling.

**Crime.**

6. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,573 against 2,329 in the previous year showing an increase of 244 cases. Of 1,284 cases for investigation during the year, the police refused investigation under section 157(*b*) of the Criminal Procedure Code in 142 cases against 94 cases in the previous year. Five hundred and seventy-four remained undetected, but were declared true and 405 were sent up for trial; the percentage of convictions to persons tried was 86·96. Forty-one appeals were preferred, in 3 cases the appeals were summarily rejected, in 23 cases the original orders were confirmed, in 10 modified and in only 4 reversed. One appeal was pending at the end of the year.

**Public health.**

7. The general health of the state during the year under report was on the whole good. The percentage of deaths in cholera cases was 66·30 against 72·28 in the previous year; 457 cases occurred. The percentage of deaths in small-pox cases was 17·99 against 20·34 in the previous year; 1,245 persons were attacked. Thorough vaccination and re-vaccination were carried out. The number of malarial cases decreased considerably during the year.

**Education.**

8. The number of high English schools (including the Jenkins School) was 5 as in the previous year. The number of middle English schools was 26 as in the previous year. Of these 24 were aided and 2 unaided against 25 aided and 1 unaided during the preceding year. The number of middle vernacular schools in the state including three special schools was 10 as in the previous year. The total number of institutions for the exclusive education of Muhammadan students was 26 against 30 of the previous year, of which 19 were aided and 7 unaided. During the year under report the total number of schools rose

from 374 to 389, the number of pupils from 14,505 to 15,357 and the average daily attendance from 9,876 to 10,873. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to Rs. 1,00,003 against Rs. 95,263 of the previous year showing an increase of Rs. 4,740. The state contributed Rs. 43,355 and the people Rs. 56,648.

## Tripura.

General. 9. His Highness Sir Bikram Kishore Dev Barman Bahadur, K.C.S.I., visited Shillong, Mussooree and several other places and was invested with the badge of Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India by His Excellency the Viceroy at the Investiture Durbar held at New Delhi on the 7th March 1936. The second Maharaj Kumar died on the 28th December 1935.

Finance. 10. The opening balance of the year was Rs. 14,76,461 against Rs. 14,02,434 of the previous year. The total revenue from permanent sources was Rs. 16,96,043 in the state and Rs. 11,07,653 in the zamindaries. With deposits the total receipts from all sources came to Rs. 30,55,435. The total sum available for expenditure was thus Rs. 45,31,896 against Rs. 43,24,006 in the preceding year. The results of land revenue collection were encouraging and the increase in the duty on cotton and oilseeds was satisfactory. The total expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 27,37,576 against Rs. 28,47,545 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,09,969. In spite of a marked improvement in the economic condition a cautious policy continued to be followed to keep down expenditure within the receipts.

Crops and condition of the people. 11. The rainfall was more than 12 inches below the figure for the preceding year and was unevenly distributed. Kailasahar Division had 110 inches while Belonia Division had only 47 inches. Harvesting was generally satisfactory. There was some rise in the price of food grains, rice and paddy. The tea industry made appreciable progress and 48 gardens were in running condition during the year.

Public health. 12. There were 202 deaths from cholera and 5 from small-pox. Two thousand persons were inoculated with anti-cholera vaccine and 6,730 persons were vaccinated against small-pox.

Crime. 13. The total number of cases reported to police during the year fell to 674 from 894 in the previous year. Altogether 516 persons were arrested in connection with various offences and 708 persons were sent up by the police for trial against 675 and 819,

respectively, in the previous year. The percentage of conviction was 26·94. The percentage of theft cases in which recoveries were made was 22·78. Five Arms Act cases were instituted against 6 persons, of whom 2 were convicted and 4 were awaiting trial at the close of the year. The relation of the State police with the police of the neighbouring districts in British India continued to be satisfactory.

**Education.**

14. The total number of schools including private schools and 5 high English schools was 181. The total number of pupils was 7,520, of whom 1,584 pupils were reading in high English schools. The State high English schools sent up 73 candidates for Matriculation Examination, of whom 44 passed. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,22,027.

## Auxiliary Force and Indian Territorial Force.

15. As in previous years the Auxiliary Force Units in the Presidency and Assam District comprised Royal Engineers, Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry, Armoured Car Sections and Light Motor Patrols, Wireless Telegraph Sections, also an Armoured Train.

During the year under review, Auxiliary Force (India) Units were not called out to assist the civil authorities on any occasion. The standard of efficiency attained at the end of the year was very satisfactory. It was found possible to arrange for an Auxiliary Force Staff Exercise at Ranchi in November for the benefit of Auxiliary Force (India) Officers. The Exercise was well attended, as were the unit camps.

16. The Indian Territorial Force Units in the Presidency and Assam District comprise one Provincial Territorial Force Unit and three University Training Corps at Calcutta, Dacca and Patna. Their training is carried out under the supervision of Regular Officers.

The Calcutta University Training Corps was started in 1917, when two companies were formed. In 1921, the Corps was reconstituted under the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920, as the 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion, University Training Corps. Parades actually started in July 1922 when, as a result of an intensive recruiting campaign, the strength of the unit was increased to some five hundred and fifty members.

From 1922 to 1933 annual camps were held. No camp was held during the winter 1934-35 owing to the poor attendance at preliminary parades. Such attendance has improved and enabled a camp to be held during the year under review.

The camp was held at Madhupur between the 15th and 29th October 1935, the total strength of all ranks in camp being 291. It was the first camp held outside Calcutta for a number of years. The University Training Corps annual weapon training course was fired for the first time this year.

The 12th (Dacca) Company, University Training Corps, was constituted on the 9th June 1928.

The Corps is now up to strength, and an annual camp was held at Dacca between the 12th and 21st November 1935. Nearly 70 per cent. of the cadets attended.

About 33 per cent. of the cadets fired a part of the annual weapon training course, and were only prevented from completing the course owing to an epidemic of small-pox.

17. The 11th Battalion, 19th Hyderabad Regiment of the Indian Territorial Force, was raised on the 5th August 1921 as the 1st (Territorial) Battalion, 94th Russel's Infantry, the present designation dating from 1922. The Battalion has its headquarters and two companies located at Dinapore, the latter being designated the Bihar and Orissa Wing. The Bengal Wing, located at Calcutta, like the Bihar and Orissa Wing, is embodied for training for one month (two months for recruits) annually, this period being spent in camp on the Calcutta Maidan. The Bengal Wing is composed of residents of Bengal. During the annual camp, British and Indian officers and Indian non-commissioned officers of the Regular Battalion of the 19th Hyderabad Regiment are attached to the Bengal Wing, for the organisation and supervision of the annual training.

In anticipation of the reconstitution of the Bengal Wing, no recruit or annual training of other ranks was carried out during the year under report.

In place of this, a period of special training of Senior and Junior Grade officers of the Wing was carried out during the period 3rd to 14th February 1936. This special training was held in camp on the Ellenborough Maidan outside St. George's Gate, Fort William, and proved very successful.

The administration of the unit is carried out by the Adjutant, 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion, University Training Corps.

The present strength of the Wing consists of 176 members.

## Ecclesiastical.

18. The Ecclesiastical Establishment in Bengal during 1935-36, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 11 Chaplains of the Church of England, 13 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy Society, 5 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 1 Clergyman of the Church of Scotland, Most Reverend the Archbishop of Calcutta and 3 Clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church.

## Emigration.

[Report on Inland Emigration under the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, XXII of 1932, for the year ending 30th September 1935.]

Inland emigration.

19. The number of emigrants recruited in this Presidency during the year ending 30th September 1935, was 357 as against 778 in the previous year. Of these 228 were adults and the rest children. All of them came from the district of Birbhum and were accommodated in the depot at Rampurhat in that district. Of the 357 emigrants, 48 were rejected and the rest were sent to the tea gardens in the Assam Valley and Surma Valley Districts in Assam. During the year under review there were two local forwarding agents, one worked in the districts of Midnapore, Bankura and Burdwan and had his depot at Kharagpur in the district of Midnapore, and the other worked in the district of Birbhum and had his depot at Rampurhat in that district as in the previous year. A local forwarding agent's license was, however, issued in September 1935 for the district of Midnapore. During the year the Government of Bengal issued a notification whereby a local forwarding agent is required to give every assisted emigrant forwarded by him, a statement printed in vernacular giving information relating to the tea estate for which he is recruited. Formerly such information was given verbally. The total number of emigrants who passed through the transit depots at Asansol and Naihati was 32,897 as against 96,761 in the previous year. There were 18 cases of sickness in the depot at Naihati, of which 16 were cured and 2 ended fatally. In both the cases of death the victims were infants, one died of infantile convulsion and the other of chronic fever and diarrhoea. Goalundo was the only port from which emigrants embarked for despatch to the tea districts in Assam. Three hundred and forty-one emigrants passed through the depot at this place and all of them were sent to the Surma Valley. There was no sickness or death among them. No illegal or fraudulent recruitment or

forwarding of emigrants came to notice during the year. The transit depots at Asansol and Naihati were inspected by the Controller of Emigrant Labour.

[Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, VII of 1922, and the rules framed thereunder, for the year ending 31st December 1935.]

Foreign emigration.

20. There was no emigration of skilled or unskilled labour from the Presidency of Bengal to countries overseas during the year under report.

Repatriation to India.

21. The total number of emigrants who returned to India and landed at Calcutta during the year was 260, as against 246 in the previous year. Of these 163 came from Fiji, 39 from Mauritius and 58 from the Union of South Africa. No emigrant from British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Surinam returned to India during the year under report. There was no death among the returning emigrants on their voyage to India during the year, as in the previous year. As usual, the majority of the emigrants who returned during the year, consisted of time-expired, old and debilitated people enfeebled by age and of very poor constitution. The general health of the emigrants during the voyage was good, and no report on the occurrence of any infectious disease amongst them was received.

## Haj Pilgrims.

22. During the year under report, SS. *Jahangir* sailed from Calcutta to the Hedjaz on the 30th January 1936 with 391 pilgrims against 527 in the previous year. This fall in traffic which is not confined to this port only, is mainly due to fixing so late a date of sailing from Calcutta that pilgrims intending to visit Medina for performance of *haj* had to avail themselves of an earlier boat from Bombay.

# CHAPTER II.

## Law and Order.

### Police Administration in Bengal.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Bengal Presidency for the year 1935.]

**Charge.**

23. Mr. T. J. Craig, C.I.E., I.P., held charge as Inspector-General till 23rd April, when he proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement. He was succeeded by Mr. J. C. Farmer who held charge for the remainder of the year.

**Eastern Frontier Rifles.**

24. The battalion continued to maintain its traditional standard of efficiency and discipline under the command of Lieut.-Colonel E. D. Dallas-Smith, I.A., in spite of the difficulties occasioned by the continued absence of a detachment with a British officer on deputation to Chittagong.

**Strength.**

25. The strength of the permanent forces (including the Eastern Frontier Rifles) at the close of the year was 24,978 officers and men against 25,130 of the previous year. The reduction in the strength is due mainly to the amalgamation of the River Police with the District Police and to the retrenchment of staff in the three railway police districts. It is interesting to note that whereas in England and Wales there was in 1935 one constable for every 682 of the population, the corresponding figure for Bengal is one constable for every 2,020.

There was a slight increase in the percentage of local recruits compared with last year. It is satisfactory that candidates with good educational qualifications are now coming forward for enlistment as constables.

**Health.**

26. It is gratifying to note that the improvement in the health of the force which was noticed last year has been maintained and that the arrangements for the nursing of the sick in hospital are working satisfactorily.

The total number of admissions into hospitals during the year was 11,873 against 12,730 and 15,044 in the years 1934 and 1933, respectively.

**Discipline.**

27. Although the number of officers and men judicially punished decreased, there was a growth in the number of those departmentally punished, 8,916 officers and men having been so

punished in the year under review against 8,228 in 1934 and 7,957 in 1933. The number of complaints instituted against the police by private individuals was 247 against 233 in 1934. It is significant that out of 210 cases disposed of during the year, only 15 ended in conviction, 68 in acquittal or discharge and as many as 127 in dismissal. These figures indicate the maintenance of a high standard of discipline.

Buildings.

28. The condition of many police buildings is unsatisfactory and improvement in this direction is urgently called for, but financial stringency still stands in the way of making adequate provision for the purpose. It is hoped that through the recent relaxation of certain financial rules some improvement may be effected, the funds placed at the disposal of the Police Department being now capable of being utilised to better advantage.

Crime statistics.

29. There was an increase in the number of non-cognizable cases from 123,291 to 124,213, but the number of true cognizable cases and of serious crimes fell from 70,128 and 45,228, respectively, to 68,302 and 43,052. The decrease in serious crime was most noticeable in the categories riot, dacoity, burglary and theft which fell from 719, 1,280, 27,698 and 13,196, respectively, to 671, 1,242, 26,149 and 12,733, and reflects credit on the diligence of the force as a whole. The number of dacoities in Tippera, Burdwan, Bakarganj and Bogra were, respectively, 33, 20, 20 and 18 less than in the previous year. Although the number of dacoities is still very large compared with that in other provinces in India, the improvement brought about is both real and progressive as is illustrated by a comparison of the total of 1,242 true cases of dacoities in 1935 with those of 1,280 in 1934, 1,518 in 1933 and 1,852 in 1932. The special efforts which are being made to check this crime in co-operation with the presidents and members of union boards and the villagers themselves will bring about further improvement in the situation. It is satisfactory to note that these efforts are already bearing fruit as is shown by the marked increase in the number of instances in which active resistance was offered to dacoits.

As regards crimes committed within the jurisdiction of the Railway Police, there was a decrease in thefts from running passenger trains on the East Indian Railway, on the Sealdah Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway and on the Saidpur Section of the Eastern Bengal and Assam-Bengal Railways, the figures being 34, 59 and 22, respectively, against 37,86 and 35 of the previous year. There was no case of theft of mail bags, but a case of mail robbery occurred on the Sealdah Section of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

**Rural Police.**

30. The total number of dafadars and chaukidars was 75,308 against 75,487 and the cost of their maintenance was Rs. 54,56,294 against Rs. 55,58,882 in the previous year. The average cost per month per head of the rural police came to Rs. 6-0-7.

Though it cannot be said that there was any very appreciable improvement in the working of the rural police, specific instances of good work were not wanting. It is satisfactory to note that there has been improvement in the co-operation between the union boards and the police in the prevention and detection of crime and that Superintendents of Police are alive to the necessity of maintaining this improvement.

**Revolutionary crime.**

31. Apart from cases which occurred within the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Police, 9 crimes were committed by terrorists as against 14 in the previous year and 41 and 74 in 1933 and 1932, respectively. This steady improvement is attributable to the good work of the force in general and of the Intelligence Branch in particular and is also an indication of a welcome increase in co-operation on the part of the general public.

The crimes committed by terrorists included three murders, the victims being one public servant and two private persons, two assaults on public servants, one dacoity and three robberies. Thefts of 3 revolvers and 1 pistol were reported, while 16 revolvers and 10 pistols were recovered.

Several notable absconders were arrested during the year. The first arrests in the 24-Parganas early in January were those of Miss Parul Mukharji (who evaded arrest for two years) and Purnananda Das Gupta (who escaped from the Alipore Central Jail in July 1934 while under trial in the Inter-Provincial Conspiracy case). The search of their shelter disclosed a mass of incriminating documents, cyphers, etc., which, on examination, led to the institution of the Tittagarh Arms Conspiracy case. The same month saw the arrest of Khirode Banarji who was wanted in connection with the Chittagong Armoury Raid case, while late in the year Niranjan Ghoshal, another of the three Alipore Jail absconders, was also recaptured.

**Intelligence.**

32. The Intelligence Branch displayed loyalty, courage and devotion to duty in their successful struggle against revolutionary crime, and the Military Intelligence Officers, besides their normal duties, did excellent work in creating a more healthy atmosphere in schools and colleges by the introduction and encouragement of healthy sports and games.

## Police Administration in Calcutta.

[Report on the Police Administration in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1935.]

Charge.

33. The office of the Commissioner of Police was held during the year under review by Mr. L. H. Colson, C.I.E., except for the period 4th April till 18th October, when Mr. A. D. Gordon, C.I.E., acted for him during his absence on leave.

Strength.

34. The strength of the force at the close of the year was 5,651 officers and men. The number of constables enlisted during the year was 211 including 50 Bengalis against 117 including 51 Bengalis during the previous year. The fall in the percentage of recruitment of Bengalis is noticeable, but it is hoped that it will be possible to increase this percentage as suitable candidates offer themselves for enlistment.

Discipline.

35. While it is regrettable to note that there was no decrease in the total number of officers and men punished departmentally, there is no reason to conclude that this fact indicates any real deterioration in the tone of the force in general.

Health.

36. The general health of the force continued to be good. There were 48 deaths against 44 of the previous year, but the average daily number of sick fell from 104 of the previous year to 101. An interesting examination of members of the force by Dr. Lowe of the British Empire Leprosy Association was made during the year, and it is satisfactory to note that no more than 47 were found suffering from leprosy, and that of a non-infectious character. The improvement effected in the nursing arrangements at the police hospital is satisfactory.

Crime statistics.

37. There was some increase in the total number of cognizable cases reported to the police. The increase was due mainly to the better reporting of small thefts and burglaries committed mostly by house servants and partly also to the extension of residential areas in the suburbs. The control of serious crime was however very satisfactory as there was an appreciable drop in the number of cases of murder, coining and rioting and total absence of dacoity, against 7 such cases in 1933 and 4 in 1934. There was a further improvement in the recovery of stolen property, the percentage in value of property recovered to property stolen being 28·5 in 1935 against 26·2 in the previous year.

It is satisfactory to note that the Detective Department maintained its high standard of efficiency and detective ability, as is amply borne out by the interesting accounts recorded in the reports of the more important cases dealt with by them.

The Special Detective Staff of the Port Police continued to do good work, specially in the detection of unauthorised possession of firearms, 19 persons being arrested and 9 convicted. They succeeded in having externed from Bengal or the notified area 10 well-known smugglers of arms under the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act.

**Revolutionary crime.**

38. Although fortunately Calcutta was free from any overt terrorist outrage, terrorism is still active and malignant. The main pre-occupation of the Special Branch of the Calcutta Police, in co-operation with the Intelligence Branch of the Bengal Police, was the inquiries preliminary to the institution of the important Tittagarh Conspiracy case, in which 30 persons accused of terrorist activities were finally put on their trial.

**Communal peace.**

39. A satisfactory feature of the year's administration was the absence of any serious communal friction in spite of the fact that there occurred more than one occasion, such as the Karachi firing, the Shahidganj dispute and local disturbances in connection with the Congress Golden Jubilee Celebration, for the stirring up of communal feeling.

**Labour.**

40. There were 20 strikes, of which some resulted in breaches of peace as the strikers resorted to aggressive picketing.

**Traffic.**

41. The Traffic Advisory Board set up last year continued to do much useful work.

It is regrettable that there was a further rise in the number of street accidents. A total number of 113 persons were killed and 2,446 injured from all causes, the corresponding totals of last year being 99 and 2,195. By far the largest number of casualties was due to private motor cars, the number of those killed and injured from this cause being 60 and 1,662, respectively. The bad lighting of some of the streets and the absence of any effective device for lighting of bullock carts contributed largely to these accidents. It is hoped that the Commissioner of Police with the help of the Traffic Advisory Board will be able to work out some measures which may reduce their number. The draft rules for the lighting of bullock carts have already been published.

**Beggars.**

42. The number of beggars arrested and sent up for trial increased still further from 8,235 of the previous year to 9,817. A practical solution of this pressing problem has yet to be found, though certain proposals have been made to Government on which the views of the Corporation have been invited. The arrest and sending up for trial of a vast number of beggars merely to be

discharged with a warning or a nominal sentence is obviously wasted effort, and Government will always be ready to consider any practical suggestions for reducing this admitted evil.

## Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1935.]

Analytical cases.

43. During the year under review 7,422 articles were examined in this department as compared with 7,635 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 213 articles. In the General Analytical Department (including Excise) 1,264 examinations were made as against 1,466 during 1934; the decrease of 202 articles was most noticeable in the number of articles received from the Inspector of Explosives in India, the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and the Medical College and other hospitals in Calcutta.

Medico-legal cases.

44. During the period under review 2,470 medico-legal cases were referred to this department as against 2,363 in 1934, the increase being noticed under the heads "Human poisoning" and "Stain cases." The total number of cases detected was 1,380, i.e., 56·2 per cent., as against 55·05 per cent. in 1934 and 56·53 per cent. in 1933. The total number of medico-legal articles examined during the year was 6,158 as against 6,169 in the previous year. The number of human viscera examined in connection with poisoning and abortion cases was 969 as against 934 in the previous year, showing an increase of 35 viscera. Besides human viscera 168 human tissues were examined during the year as against 158 in 1934.

The number of animal viscera sent for examination was 74 as against 91 in 1934 and poison was detected in 42 of them, i.e., 56·75 per cent., as against 67·03 per cent. in 1934. Three thousand and thirty-five articles were sent for examination during the year in connection with 1,182 stain cases as compared with 3,061 articles in connection with 1,089 cases in the previous year, thus showing a decrease of 26 articles and increase of 93 cases.

## Jails Department.

[Report on the Administration of the Jail Department of the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1935.]

Population.

45. During 1935 the admissions were less than those of 1934 by 2,493 (including transfers), but the average daily strength rose from 21,850·57 to 22,723·89, the highest on record. This figure exceeds the number of prisoners for whom accommodation is

provided by about 33 per cent., but the actual congestion was much greater owing to the presence of a large number of detenus who have to be segregated from other prisoners and required more space per individual. The situation would have been still worse if Government had not resorted to the expedient, which they recognise as extremely unsatisfactory, of a special jail delivery in which 2,130 non-habitual prisoners were released before the expiry of their sentences.

In addition to Special Jails at Berhampore and Hijli, the two temporary jails at Dum Dum remained in commission. These, however, are not adapted for the proper treatment of criminals and Government decided to increase the permanent available accommodation by the construction of a Central Jail at Dum Dúm on a site which is being acquired from the Government of India. Some new construction work will be necessary, but a considerable amount of accommodation will be made available by the conversion of buildings formerly used as military barracks.

**Cost of guarding and maintenance.**

46. The cost of guarding and maintaining prisoners in jails and sub-jails, including the cost of general supervision, amounted to Rs. 30,43,131 against Rs. 29,07,789 in 1934, the average cost per head being Rs. 129-14 against Rs. 129-4 in 1934.

**Terrorist prisoners.**

47. The jails continued to hold a large number of terrorist prisoners, 836 of these being received during the year as against 761 in 1934. Ninety-one terrorist convicts were deported to the Andamans and 3 were repatriated from the islands for medical reasons. The presence of this class of prisoner increased the difficulty of administration. There were 4 cases of assault by terrorists on officers when these refused to comply with inadmissible demands or condone breaches of discipline. One method of dealing with refractory prisoners of this type is to segregate them in cells, but the existing cellular accommodation in the jails is altogether inadequate. It is a matter of some satisfaction, however, that 32 new cells were built in the Midnapore Central Jail and 41 in the Dacca Central Jail during the year.

In spite of the overcrowding and the presence of terrorist prisoners, no serious jail outbreak occurred and only 1 convict and 1 undertrial prisoner escaped from inside the jails.

**Borstal School.**

48. The number of boys sent by courts to the Borstal School at Bankura is steadily increasing, and the average daily strength in 1935 was 312 against 215 in 1934. Primary education is compulsory, the majority of the boys being illiterate on admission, and higher education is given to boys who show an aptitude for it. Up to the end of 1935, 9 boys had passed the Matriculation Examination, 6 of whom had continued their studies in colleges

and 7 boys were prepared during 1935 for the Matriculation Examination in 1936. Two hundred and twenty-eight boys appeared at the Annual Examination conducted by the Education Department in 1935 against 197 in 1934, and 173 passed against 153 in 1934. Greater emphasis was properly laid on technical and industrial training, and the inmates were taught such trades as weaving, tailoring, carpentry, smithy, book-binding, laundry, compounding and dairying. and sufficient orders were received from outside to keep the boys engaged in all sections of industries throughout the year. Other activities calculated to secure an all-round development of the boys were provided by physical training, by a recreation club and a library, by the introduction of the boy scout movement, and by religious and moral instruction. As regards sports, they were encouraged to take part in such games as football, hockey, cricket, basket ball, volley ball and all country games. They were also allowed to play competition matches with outside teams.

After care.

49. Seventy-two boys were released on licence and on expiry of sentence, of whom 46 were transferred to the Bengal After Care Association, Calcutta, and the rest were sent home to their guardians. No report has been received regarding the boys sent home, while of the boys sent to the Association, the conduct of 41 is reported to be good and that of the remainder, fair. Without an efficient organisation for the care of the youths on release, Borstal treatment cannot fully succeed. Public opinion, however, has not been fully roused in the matter. Good work has been done by the Central After Care Association in Calcutta, but district branches seemed to have languished, and in some districts there was no such association at all. The Visiting Committee of the Borstal School had 12 meetings during 1935. Two ex-officio members and two members from the public regularly visited the school and took great interest in its welfare.

Juvenile and adolescent prisoners.

50. The problem of adolescent delinquency has caused much anxiety to Government of late years. Although there was only a slight increase in the percentage of prisoners under 21, their number is very high, being well over 5,000. The existing facilities for their treatment in special institutions are strictly limited; there is one Borstal School at Bankura with accommodation designed for 219 youths but with an average daily strength of 312 during 1935 as stated above. There is also a jail for juveniles at Berhampore where literary education up to the lower primary standard was given by two paid teachers. The boys were drilled in the morning and given physical training in folk-dance in the evening. They were also given technical and industrial training in weaving, durrie and ashan making, spinning, tailoring, carpentry, bamboo and cane work, string making, etc. In the

Presidency Jail rudimentary education was imparted by two temporary teachers to the juvenile and adolescent prisoners. The boys were seen learning their lessons and were taught drill to improve their sense of discipline. Special arrangements for the treatment of adolescent criminals on Borstal lines have been made in a part of the Alipore Central Jail. These arrangements are, however, seriously inadequate, and the question of providing more Borstal Schools is a pressing one which ought not to be ignored.

**Undertrial prisoners.**

51. The average period of detention of prisoners in the undertrial stage remained about the same as in 1934. There was, however, some deterioration in several districts and the period of detention was still high in others, notably Burdwan, 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Rajshahi and Darjeeling. Continued vigilance is called for on the part of the local officers with a view to effecting an improvement in future.

**Short-term prisoners.**

52. The number of short-term prisoners was still very high, no fewer than 14,083, or 34 per cent., of those admitted having received sentences of less than one month, as compared with 13,629 in 1934. These included a small number of persons who were sent to jail for less than a week by union benches. A large proportion consisted of persons imprisoned in default of payments of fines in petty cases, especially cases under the Railways Act. It is realised that courts are confronted with difficulty in having to deal with such cases. If the punishment of imprisonment in default of payment of fine were not carried out, it is certain that there would be a great increase in the number of defaulters. Nevertheless, it is necessary to remind all Magistrates of the uselessness and positively harmful consequences of short sentences. They should pay particular attention to this matter in their inspection of subordinate courts and union benches.

**Prisoner's aid-societies.**

53. Apart from the importance of private work on behalf of youths discharged from the Borstal School, Bankura, there is some need in the mufassal for voluntary societies which will interest themselves in the well-being of adult prisoners in the interval between their release from jail and their return to regular employment.

**Warders.**

54. The number of punishments imposed on warders slightly increased from 1,843 in 1934 to 1,900 in 1935 including 59 dismissals against 58 in 1934. This is attributable to the employment of a large number of temporary men in the prison establishment, who have little incentive to do their best.

Middle class Bengali youths of fair education are offering themselves in increasing numbers for employment as warders and the recruitment of Bengali warders has increased in consequence.

Five senior warders (one from each circle jail) deputed in 1934 to the Police Training College, Sardah, for a course of training in drill completed their training and were returned to their respective jails. Five more senior warders from circle jails were deputed in 1935 for similar training. It is intended that these trained warders will gradually improve the efficiency in drill of the whole force.

Jail dairies.

55. Two warders from each Central Jail were deputed to the Cattle Farm at Dacca to have a training in dairy work. Such training will be useful in improving the jail dairies.

Discipline of convicts.

56. The general discipline among ordinary convicts continued to be satisfactory.

Jail libraries.

57. Though it was not possible, owing to the financial stringency, to undertake any considerable reforms, a scheme was sanctioned for the establishment of libraries in all the District and Central Jails. Some expenditure was incurred on the purchase of books for Central Jails during 1935; and it is proposed, as an experimental measure, to spend Rs. 1,000 a year during the next four years on the provision of reading matter for educated prisoners.

Indoor games.

58. Another small improvement made in the year under review was the introduction of indoor games for well-behaved prisoners.

Jail manufacture.

59. The net earnings from jail manufacture fell from Rs. 3,40,535 in 1934 to Rs. 3,20,934 in 1935. Only 32·8 per cent. of the prisoners were employed in manufactures. In the present state of congestion in the jails and general depression of the market the problem of keeping all prisoners suitably employed is a difficult one.

Health and mortality.

60. The degree of sickness amongst the prisoners was slightly higher, but the rate of mortality considerably lower during 1935 than was the case in 1934. The total number of deaths was 240 and the death rate was 10·56 per mille against 12·91 per mille in 1934. The daily average sick rate was 808·31 against 788·90 in 1934. Dysentery and malaria continue to be the chief causes of admission of prisoners into hospital; in many cases, the prisoners are infected before admission; but the increase in admissions of dysentery, pneumonia and pulmonary tuberculosis are disquieting features: until the accommodation is more nearly equal to the average population of the jails, there is little expectation of reduction of the sickness rates.

## Registration.

**Progress and statistics.**

61. There were 384 sub-registry offices at the close of the year 1935 against 387 at the end of the preceding year. Three sub-registry offices which were working at a loss during the year under review were abolished.

The total number of registrations was 11,05,394 in the year under report against 10,35,299 in 1934, showing an increase of 6·77 per cent. as against an increase of 13·7 per cent. in 1934 over the figures of 1933, which was a year of abnormal fall in registration.

The total income of the department increased from Rs. 22,10,126 in 1934 to Rs. 23,09,431 in 1935, showing an increase of 4·49 per cent.

The total expenditure also increased from Rs. 16,17,330 to Rs. 16,51,122, showing an increase of 2·08 per cent.

**Special Marriage Act III of 1872.**

62. At the end of the year 1935 there were 43 Marriage Registrars including 28 ex-officio Registrars as against 42 Marriage Registrars in the previous year. Ninety-nine marriages were registered in 1935 against 109 marriages registered in 1934. No special reason can be assigned for this decrease.

**Muhammadan Registration Act and Kazis Act.**

63. Bengal Act I of 1876 and Kazis Act XII of 1880 were in force in almost all the districts of the province. But the Kazis Act (XII of 1880) does not appear to have made any appreciable progress. As reported in previous years village mollahs and family priests are more in demand than Kazis appointed under the Act for the performance of marriage ceremonies.

The total number of ceremonies, viz., marriages, ordinary divorces and khola divorces registered in the Presidency during 1935 was 63,288 against 57,334 in the previous year, showing an increase of 10·2 per cent. This increase is apparently due to the slight improvement in the economic condition.

The total receipts of Muhammadan Registrars amounted to Rs. 1,79,461 during the year against Rs. 1,59,823 in the preceding year showing an increase of 12·2 per cent.

The Permanent Committee was reconstituted during the year under review.

The rules under Act I (B.C.) of 1876 were revised and necessary forms and registers prescribed for giving effect to the amending Act (Bengal Act I of 1935) empowering Muhammadan Registrars to register the class of divorce known as Talaq-i-Tafweez.

# CHAPTER III.

## Justice.

### Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1935.]

**Judicial staff.**

64. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 13 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Thirty-eight Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge were employed for various periods in 21 districts and decided 686 cases. Eight I.C.S. officers, who were on judicial training, 2 Deputy Magistrates, who exercised the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge, and 11 temporary Additional Sessions Judges were also employed in different districts on sessions work.

**Magisterial staff.**

65. The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 389 stipendiary and 411 honorary magistrates. These figures represent a decrease of 78 and an increase of 7 respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. One special magistrate was employed at Hatiya (Noakhali) for 69 days during the year and he disposed of 161 cases. Of the 389 stipendiary magistrates, 263 exercised first, 115 second, and 11 third class powers. There were 85 benches of magistrates constituted from among 374 honorary magistrates in the mufassal. Of these 56 were independent and 29 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

**Special Magistrates.**

66. There were 21 cases with 57 persons pending before special magistrates appointed under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act at the commencement of the year, while 123 cases were preferred and 130 were disposed of during the year, leaving 14 with 16 persons pending at its close. In the cases disposed of, 220 persons were implicated. Of the persons tried, 175 were convicted, 44 acquitted and one died. Of the persons convicted 163 were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, three to rigorous imprisonment with fine, five punished with fine, and two were released on probation and two were detained till the rising of the court and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50 each

or in default to undergo rigorous imprisonment for five weeks. The number of witnesses examined in the aforesaid cases was 1,165.

**Special Tribunals.**

67. There were 11 cases with 46 persons pending at the commencement of the year before special tribunals constituted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. During the year, 27 cases were instituted, 33 were disposed of, and 5 with 38 persons remained pending at its close. In the cases decided, 101 persons were concerned. Altogether 261 witnesses were examined in the course of the trial of the above persons. The trial of the 101 persons resulted in the conviction of 82 and acquittal of 19. Of the persons convicted, 3 were sentenced to death, 6 to transportation for life, 64 to various terms of rigorous imprisonment, 2 to rigorous imprisonment with fine, and 7 were punished with fine. The cases of 3 persons sentenced to death were referred to the High Court.

**Special railway magistrates.**

68. Special magistrates were appointed during the year under review for the trial of Railway Act cases at Howrah, Burdwan and Asansol on the East Indian Railway, at Kharagpur on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and at Parbatipur and Ishurdi on the Eastern Bengal Railway. Seven thousand six hundred and thirty-three cases with 10,051 persons were brought to trial. Of the persons tried, 9,824 were convicted and 224 acquitted.

The total amount of fines imposed and fares levied in these cases was Rs. 69,536 and Rs. 18,927, respectively, of which only Rs. 11,727 and Rs. 3,413, respectively, were realised. Large amounts of fines and fares had to be remitted on account of non-execution of warrants, as no movables or trace of the persons could be found in many cases.

**Number of offences.**

69. The number of offences reported during the year combined with the number pending from the previous year was 403,284 against 396,300 in 1934.

Of this number, 149,461 were under the Indian Penal Code and 253,823 under special and local laws. These figures are 4,904 and 2,080, respectively, more than those of 1934. The increase was most marked in Dacca, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Rajshahi as regards offences under the Penal Code, while under special and local laws the increase was most noticeable in the 24-Parganas, Bogra, Howrah and Chittagong. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 348,936 were found to be true, and of these 308,007 were brought to trial.

## ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

### *I—Magistrates' Courts.*

70. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 135,399 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town and 172,608 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal.

### *II.—Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.*

71. The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrates, was 135,399 or 9,275 less than in 1934. There was a decrease in the number of cases under special and local laws and an increase under the Penal Code. Under the former, there was a remarkable decrease in offences under the Hackney and Stage Carriages Acts, while under the latter head there was a slight increase in offences affecting the public health.

The percentage of convictions before stipendiary magistrates amounted to 80·8 and before honorary magistrates sitting singly to 98·8.

The fines imposed in police courts aggregated to Rs. 2,98,448. Rs. 2,29,397 were realised, of which Rs. 1,243 were paid as compensation to complainants. Rupees 83,691 were imposed as fines in the municipal courts and Rs. 78,605 realised during the year. Out of this amount, nothing was paid to complainants by way of compensation.

### *III—Magistrates outside Calcutta.*

72. One lakh seventy-two thousand six hundred and eight cases were brought to trial. Including cases committed to the sessions, 172,329 cases were disposed of during the year.

The increase in the number of cases disposed of during the year was the highest in Dacca (3,091), followed by 24-Parganas (2,358), Chittagong (1,313), Dinajpur (750); while the decrease was the greatest in Howrah (842); the next lower in order being Hooghly (327), Tippera (306) and Rajshahi (282).

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| District Magistrates .. .. .. | 50 |
| Subordinate stipendiary magistrates .. | 139,201 |
| Honorary magistrates .. .. .. | 25,432 |
| Benches of magistrates .. .. .. | 7,485 |
| Special magistrates .. .. .. | 161 |

In addition to the cases shown above District Magistrates decided 20 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The total number of cases disposed of by the District Magistrates was 50, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Howrah (17).

**Results.**

73. In the cases finally disposed of by magistrates 252,911 persons were accused, 8,757 more than in 1934. Of the total 136,179 or 53·8 per cent. were convicted and 116,732 or 46·2 per cent. were acquitted or discharged.

**Punishments.**

74. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Imprisonment .. .. .. | 21,080 |
| Fine or forfeiture .. .. .. | 111,878 |
| Whipping .. .. .. .. | 103 |

The fines imposed totalled Rs. 10,90,715. Rs. 6,25,909 were realised, of which Rs. 76,698 were paid as compensation to complainants.

**Miscellaneous proceedings.**

75. The total number of miscellaneous proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code decided during the year was 6,866 against 6,845 in the previous year.

**Witnesses.**

76. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 381,993 as compared with 374,219 in 1934. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 141,513 or 37 per cent. of the whole number in attendance; the percentage in the preceding year was 26·4. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance fell from Rs. 2,97,175 in 1934 to Rs. 2,75,863 in 1935.

**Union benches.**

77. During the year under review 1,400 union benches functioned under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919 in all the districts of the Presidency except Midnapore and Darjeeling, and 160,770 persons were brought before them for trial, of whom 129,652 were either discharged or acquitted and 10,704 convicted and 17,219 remained under trial at the end of the year. The cases of 3,195 persons were transferred for trial to other courts. Seven hundred and sixty-eight persons were sentenced to terms of imprisonment and orders of fine or forfeiture were passed against 9,936. The amount of fine imposed was Rs. 48,933 and the amount realised Rs. 32,860, out of which Rs. 521 were ordered to be paid as compensation. One thousand, eight hundred and seventy-five persons applied for revision of the orders passed by union benches. Their working is reported on the whole to be

satisfactory and the relief afforded to Magistrates to be fair. They are also reported to be growing in popularity as providing a system of justice which has the advantage of local trial at a small cost and which does not require the adoption of any elaborate legal procedure.

*IV—Courts of Sessions.*

78. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of sessions was 1,978 against 1,882 in the previous year. Disposals.

79. There were 6,991 persons or 113 more than in 1934, under trial before the courts of sessions. Of the 5,771 persons tried, 3,296 or 57·1 per cent. were convicted and 2,267 were acquitted or discharged and the cases of 208 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Results.

80. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Sessions:— Punishments.

| | |
|---|---|
| Death .. .. .. .. | 36 |
| Transportation or penal servitude .. .. | 162 |
| Imprisonment .. .. .. | 3,013 |
| Fine or forfeiture .. .. .. | 143 |
| Whipping .. .. .. | 12 |

In addition to these sentences, 250 persons were required to give security.

Fines to the amount of Rs. 24,085 were imposed. The total realisation of the year aggregated to Rs. 4,510.

81. The number of persons tried by jury was 4,990, and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judges accepted the verdict of the jury in respect of 4,820 persons and disapproved of it in respect of 170. Sessions Judges disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 158 persons and referred their cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Trial by Jury

82. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 159. The Sessions Judge concurred in the opinion of all the assessors in the cases of 92 persons; and differed from the opinion of one or more assessors in cases of 25 persons; from the opinion of all the assessors in those of 41 persons and from the opinion of all the assessors as regards one charge and from that of two assessors as regards another charge in the case of one person. Trial by Assessors.

83. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, fell from 54·3 days in 1934 to 53·3 days in 1935. Notice was taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. Duration of cases.

The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Chittagong, Murshidabad and Bankura, it having risen from 25·8 to 50·1 days in Chittagong, from 46·9 to 66 days in Murshidabad, and from 28·2 to 45·4 days in Bankura. On the other hand, there was a reduction from 98 to 60 days in Darjeeling, from 68 to 37 days in Hooghly, from 65·8 to 46·4 days in Bogra, and from 59 to 34·8 days in Midnapore.

**Witnesses.**

84. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of sessions was 36,023. Of these 30,643 were examined and 5,380 discharged without examination.

The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 84,310 as compared with Rs. 81,855 in 1934.

**High Court Sessions.**

85. The number of cases disposed of was 27 against 42 in the previous year.

Altogether 61 persons were tried, of whom 34 were convicted and 27 discharged or acquitted.

## APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

### *I—High Court.*

**Number of appeals.**

86. At the opening of the year, 282 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 827 appeals were preferred and 912 were decided leaving 197 pending at its close.

Twenty-seven appeals were preferred to the High Court from the decision of the special magistrates appointed under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act and 10 from those of the special tribunals constituted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act during the year and 19 appeals under the former and four under the latter Act, were pending from the previous year. Of these, 35 were disposed of leaving 19 of the former and six of the latter undecided at the end of the year. The orders of the special magistrates and tribunals were confirmed in 22 instances, modified in 9 and reversed in 4.

**Results.**

87. Seven hundred and thirty-two appeals against sentences of courts of sessions were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 584, modified in 74, and reversed in 50 instances, while 23 were remanded for retrial and one was disposed of otherwise. One hundred and sixty-five appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being

affirmed in 100, modified in 24, and reversed in 39 instances, while one was remanded for retrial and another was otherwise disposed of. Thirteen appeals against orders of acquittal were preferred by the local Government. In eight of these the decision of the trial court was confirmed, one modified and in one reversed. Two cases were remanded for retrial, and another was disposed of otherwise.

*II—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.*

Sessions courts.

88. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session, was 4,779 against 4,766 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 8,495 persons were concerned. The appeals of 2,537 persons or 29·9 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 2,799 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,324 obtained an alteration of sentence; and 1,671 were acquitted. The cases of 164 appellants were otherwise disposed of.

Magistrate's courts.

89. In the courts of magistrates, 3,018 appeals were decided against 2,979 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 5,574 persons were concerned. Of these, the appeals of 1,010 were rejected, and the sentences of 2,134, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,144 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 56·4 per cent. Of the remainder, 1,050 appellants or 18·8 per cent. obtained an alteration of the sentences passed on them, 1,248 or 22·4 per cent. their total annulment, and the cases of 132 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1934, the results were less favourable to appellants.

References under section 374, Criminal Procedure Code.

90. Five references made under this section for the confirmation of death sentence were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year and 24 were made during the year. Of these, 23 in which 37 persons were concerned, were decided during the year. Sentences of death were confirmed in the cases of 22 persons and commuted to transportation for life in the case of 8 persons; 4 persons were ordered to be retried and 3 were acquitted.

References under Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act (1925).

91. During the year two references under this section in which 3 persons were concerned, were made to the High Court for the confirmation of sentence of death passed on them. The sentence of death was confirmed in the case of 1 person and commuted to transportation for life in that of the other 2 persons.

Revision.

92. During the year, 191 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 29 were pending at the opening of the year. One hundred and eighty-one of these cases were decided during the year and 39 remained undecided at its close.

**Transfer applications.**

93. Including the number pending from the previous year, there were 61 applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases from one court or district to another for disposal during the year. Of these, 55 were disposed of and 6 remained pending at the close of the year.

**General.**

94. The number of offences reported during the year showed an increase of 6,984 over the figure for 1934. The increase was both under the Penal Code and Special and Local Laws; the figures being 4,904 and 2,080, respectively, more than those of 1934. About 8,500 more cases were decided by Magistrates in the mufassal courts than in 1934, while in the Presidency town the disposals fell by no fewer than 8,989.

The number of appellate and revisional cases disposed of by Magistrates in the mufassal rose by 39 and 47, respectively, compared with the figures for 1934. The results of the appeals varied very little, about 56 per cent. were wholly unsuccessful and the sentences of the rest were either annulled, altered or otherwise disposed of.

The number of cases disposed of in the courts of session show a slight increase from 1,882 in 1934 to 1,978 in 1935, while the percentage of convictions of persons fell from 57·5 to 57·1.

The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session remained almost stationary, the figure being 13 more than in 1934. The results of the appeals were less favourable to appellants than in the previous year; about 63 per cent. of the original sentences being confirmed and the rest either reversed, modified or otherwise disposed of.

The number of applications for revision disposed of in the courts of sessions shows a slight rise, viz., from 1,685 in 1934 to 1,811 in 1935, and the number of persons concerned in these cases was more by 21.

The total number of witnesses examined both in the Presidency town and in the mufassal rose from 443,825 to 455,362 in 1935; while the number of persons detained for more than three days was 4,349 in the mufassal and 12 in the Presidency town against 4,619 and 29, respectively, in 1934. The amount paid to witnesses on account of expenses incured by them for their attendance in magistrates' courts decreased by nearly Rs. 22,000 and in sessions courts increased by about 2,500.

Forty-one persons (21 in the Presidency town; 12, in Hooghly, 7 in 24-Parganas, and 1 in Pabna) were under trial for offences against the State, against 20 in the previous year. Of these, 27 were convicted, 12 acquitted and two remained under trial at the close of the year.

Nine persons were tried for offences against the Army and Navy in the Presidency town and all of them were convicted.

Receipts and charges.

95. After debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice, a portion of the salaries of judicial officers, proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 34,24,525. Of this amount Rs. 19,25,123 were for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,41,581 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,44,679 for process-servers, Rs. 6,02,911 for other establishments and Rs. 6,10,131 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 18,61,933. Of this amount Rs. 9,39,639 were under fines, Rs. 1,24,849 under process-fees, Rs. 1,80,651 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 5,31,994 under court-fee stamps receipts and Rs. 84,800 were miscellaneous receipts.

Compared with the figures for 1934, the receipts show an increase of over Rs. 48,000 and the charges a decrease by nearly Rs. 1,53,000. The increase in receipts occurred chiefly under the heads "Court-fee Stamps" and "Fines," the amount being about Rs. 44,000 more than last year. The drop in expenditure is chiefly due to the decrease in staff and other establishments which amounted to nearly Rs. 1,80,000; there was, however, an increase in expenditure by about Rs. 33,000 under the head "Contingencies and Refunds."

Appellate jurisdiction in Tibet.

96. By the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department notification No. 468-X, dated the 15th August 1935, the appellate jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court has been extended over Gyantse and Yatung in Tibet, in respect of offences committed over disputes arising between British subjects at the trade marts in those places.

During the year only one case was registered in the Yatung court. It remained pending at the close of the year as the British Trade Agent, who is the District Magistrate, was away from Yatung on tour. It is reported that no court fees are levied in Tibet.

## Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1935.]

Judicial staff.

97. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1935 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 13 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and

five Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 49 Subordinate Judges and 206 Munsifs. In addition, two executive officers exercised the powers of a Sub-ordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge and five the powers of a Munsif.

Three temporary Additional Judges were employed in the High Court throughout the year. There were 13 temporary Additional Judges, 9 temporary Additional Subordinate Judges and 7 temporary Additional Munsifs employed for varying periods in different districts.

The Court of the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Midnapore remained vacant throughout the year.

A self-contained cadre was formed for the Bengal Civil Service (Judicial) with effect from the 25th July 1935. A system of probation for two years for the proper training of new recruits to the service, similar to that in existence in the executive branch of the Bengal Civil Service, was introduced from the same date.

The system under which Subdivisional Munsifs were made primarily responsible for the judicial and administrative work of certain stations with more than two Munsifs was also under experiment during the year under review.

## ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

### *I—High Court.*

Original suits for disposal.

98. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1935 was 3,764 against 3,893 in the previous year.

Of 2,246 suits instituted during 1935, 1,357 were for money or movables, 209 were for immovable property and 227 were mortgage suits.

The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 4,81,19,735 as compared with Rs. 5,21,84,628 in the previous year.

The number of suits decided in 1935 was 1,869. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,895. The number pending at the close of the year was more than the number pending at the close of the previous year by 389. There were 664 suits pending over one year, an increase of 354 on the figures of the previous year.

Probates, letters of administration, etc.

99. At the commencement of the year, 116 applications for probate, letters of administration and succession certificates were pending and 587 fresh applications were made during the year. Of these, 587 were disposed of and 116 remained pending at its close.

Indian Arbitration Act IX of 1899.

100. The number of awards filed and that of applications made in execution thereof was 48 and 46, respectively.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

101. Seven appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year and ten appeals were admitted during the year. Of these, one was disposed of by the Privy Council and sixteen remained pending at the close of the year.

Financial results.

102. The following figures exhibit the financial results on the Original Side for the last three years, including under the head "Receipts" the duty realised on the grant of probates, letters of administration, and succession certificates and under the head "Expenditure" the salaries of the Judges:—

| Year. | Receipts.* | Receipts† | Expenditure. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1933 .. | .. 40,17,169 | 9,43,882 | 6,26,021 |
| 1934 .. | .. 17,87,782 | 7,57,202 | 6,81,720 |
| 1935 .. | .. 20,12,103 | 10,79,260 | 6,88,255 |

*Including the duty realised on the grant of probate and letters of administration and succession certificates.

†Excluding the duty realised on the grant of probate and letters of administration and succession certificates.

*Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.*

Original suits instituted.

103. The number of suits instituted in 1935 was 726,499, being a decrease of 7,932 on the figures of the previous year. Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease in the numbr of suits instituted in all the districts except Faridpur, Jessore, Midnapore, Rajshahi, Pabna-Bogra and Dacca. The decrease was most marked in Tippera followed by Nadia, Chittagong and Rangpur. It occurred in all the districts in all classes of suits except title suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (60,490) where the number of title suits (5,755) was also the highest in the province.

Disposals.

104. The number of suits disposed of was 751,620 showing a decrease of 13,438 on the figures of 1934.

Of the total number, 736,473 were disposed of by Munsifs, 8,778 by Subordinate Judges, 6,069 by Small Cause Court Judges

and 300 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show a decrease in the courts of Munsifs, Subordinate Judges and Small Cause Court Judges and an increase in those of the District and Additional Judges.

**Results.**

105. Of the suits disposed of, 113,928 were decided without trial, 504,738 ex parte, 26,185 on admission of claim 52,133 on compromise, 54,323 after full trial and 313 on reference to arbitration.

Of the 54,323 suits decided after full trial, 45,551 or 83·9 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs and 8,772 or 16·1 per cent. in favour of the defendants.

**Applications for retrial.**

106. The number of applications for an order to set aside an ex parte judgment or a judgment on default, preferred during the year, was 13,722. Of these, 6,398 or 46·6 per cent. were successful.

**Suits decided by Munsiffs.**

107. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs fell from 749,070 to 736,473, a decrease of 12,597.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 3,549 against 3,683 in 1934. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 20·3 per cent. of the total.

**Disposals by Subordinate Judges.**

108. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 8,778, a decrease of 459 on the figures of the previous year. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 4,716 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 4,062. Of these 29·6 per cent. and 12·4 per cent. respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after full trial both under the ordinary and Small Cause Court procedure shows an increase of ·3 and ·6 per cent., respectively, as compared with the previous year.

**Disposals in Small Cause Courts.**

109. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 6,069 original suits, of which 966 were decided after full trial, or 104 more than in the previous year.

**Pending suits.**

110. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 124,574 against 140,494 in the previous year.

Of the pending suits, 1,397 had been pending for more than a year, 21,213 for more than 6 months, and 42,842 for more than three months, representing a decrease in the arrears of year-old and six-month old cases and an increase in that of three-month old cases. Of the suits pending over one year, 715 were in the courts of the District and Subordinate Judges and 682 in the courts of Munsifs, the figures showing decreases of 326 and 868, respectively, as compared with 1934.

111. In addition to 101,033 cases instituted during the year, there were 21,532 cases pending trial from the previous year 814 were revived and 1,958 were received otherwise, making a total of 125,337 cases for disposal in 1935 against 119,319 in 1934. Of these, excluding transfers, 103,069 were disposed of, and 20,293 remained pending at the close of the year including 110 applications for probates and letters of administration which were treated as suits on becoming contested. Of the cases disposed of, 30,230 were decided without trial, 41,422, ex parte, 1,475 on admission of claim, 13,258 on compromise, 16,663 after full trial and 21 on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases 188 were pending over a year, Hooghly being responsible for the largest number 52. Miscellaneous cases.

112. The total number of insolvency petitions for disposal during the year was 2,688 against 3,057 in the previous year. Of these, 829 were dismissed. 1,185 petitioners were adjudged to be insolvents, 729 insolvents were discharged or died and the orders of adjudication in the case of 613 petitioners were annulled. Five hundred and thirty-nine petitions remained pending at the close of the year. Provincial Insolvency Act.

113. There were Union Courts in all the districts in the Presidency except Darjeeling and Midnapore under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, and the number of such courts rose to 1,237 against 1,187 in the previous year. The receipts amounted to Rs. 2,25,419 and the expenditure to Rs. 46,910. The total number of suits was 143,978 including 120,572 instituted during the year for money or movable property representing a total value of Rs. 47,11,727. Fourteen thousand and twenty-three suits remained pending at the close of the year. The number of miscellaneous cases for trial was 49,658, of which 4,576 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of revision cases from the decision of these courts was 598. In 112 cases, the applications were either dismissed or not prosecuted. In 178 cases order of a Lower Court was confirmed; in 14 it was modified, in 129 cases, reversed. Fifty-four cases were remanded for retrial and 89 remained pending at the close of the year. The Courts are reported generally to be viewed with appreciation by the public and to be affording some relief to the Munsifs in the majority of the districts in which they are established. Union Courts.

### *III—Calcutta Small Causes Court.*

114. The number of suits instituted in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1935 was 19,372. The number decided was 19,513 and the number pending at the close of the year was 4,176. Number of suits.

The figures show a decrease in the number of cases instituted and disposed of and an increase in the number pending as compared with the previous year.

Thirty-one applications were filed under section 528 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1923).

The decrease in institutions was spread over all classes of suits except those valued at not exceeding Rs. 10 and Rs. 50. The number of suits, the value of which cannot be estimated in money, was larger than previous year.

**Mode of disposal.**

115. Of the suits disposed of 1,349 were decided without trial, 7,700 ex parte, 4,612 on admission of claim, 2,745 on compromise, 3,033 after full trial, and 74 on reference to arbitration. Of the 4,176 suits pending at the close of the year, 215 were over a year old, against 154 in 1934.

## APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

### *I—High Court.*

**Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.**

116. One hundred and twenty-four appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 72 were pending at its commencement. Of the total 71 were decided and 125 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 56 less than in 1934. On the Appellate Side, 43 such appeals were filed during the year and 13 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 20 were decided and 36 remained pending at the close of the year.

### *II—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.*

117. Two hundred and ninety first appeals were filed during the year, 1,070 were pending at the commencement of the year and seven were revived, making a total of 1,367 appeals for disposal, against 1,273 in 1934. Of the total, 558 were disposed of and 809 remained pending at the close of the year.

Three hundred and ninety-eight appeals from Original Orders were filed during the year, 411 were pending from the previous year, and three were revived, making a total of 812 appeals for disposal, against 697 in 1934. Of this total 406 were disposed of and 406 were pending at the end of the year.

One thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine second appeals were filed during the year, 4,703 were pending from the previous year and 15 were revived, making a total of 6,487 appeals for disposal, against 6,437 in 1934. Of this total, 2,911 were disposed of, leaving 3,576 pending at the close of the year.

Two hundred and thirty-five appeals from Appellate Orders were filed during the year, 164 were pending from the previous year and two were revived, making a total of 401 appeals for disposal against 380 in 1934. Of these, 291 were disposed of and 110 remained pending at the end of the year.

The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court affecting District Judges, Subordinate Judges and Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923:—

| | Affirmed. | | | Modified or reversed. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | District Judges. | Subordinate Judges. | Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923. | District Judges. | Subordinate Judges. | Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Appeals from— | | | | | | |
| Original decrees .. | 78 | 155 | 1 | 54 | 124 | .. |
| Appellate decrees .. | 494 | 850 | .. | 162 | 368 | .. |
| Miscellaneous appeals | 132 | 119 | .. | 48 | 51 | .. |

*III—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.*

Appeals for disposal.

118. In addition to 8,541 appeals instituted during the year, there were 4,762 appeals pending from the previous year and 6,749 were received otherwise, making a total of 20,052 appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1935 against 22,076 in 1934.

Of the 8,541 appeals instituted during the year, against 8,698 in the previous year, 4,064 were in title suits, 3,369 in rent suits, and 1,108 in suits for money or movables. The numbers show decreases of 200 and 143 in rent and money suits, respectively, and an increase of 186 in title suits.

Appeals disposed of.

119. The number of appeals decided was 9,428, showing a decrease of 649 in the number decided by Subordinate Judges and an increase of 55 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges, as compared with the previous year.

The decrease in disposal was spread over ten districts and was largest in Chittagong (740), followed by 24-Parganas (218), Dinajpur (163), Birbhum (152) and Mymensingh (149).

Appeals pending.

120. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 4,215 and was less than that of 1934 by 547.

The number of appeals over one year old fell from 413 to 212. 24-Parganas was accountable for the largest number, viz., 87.

Results of Appeals.

121. The results of the appeals from the decisions of the lower courts decided during the year were as follows:—

In 5,221 cases, or 55·4 per cent. of the total, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 1,233 cases or 13·07 per cent. it was modified; and in 1,721 cases or 18·3 per cent. it was reversed; 399 cases or 4·3 per cent. were remanded and 854 cases or 9 per cent. were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results were less favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

General.

122. (*1*) *High Court.*—The number of first appeals instituted in the High Court during the year was 290 against 238 in 1934 and the number of second appeals instituted was 1,769 against 2,100. The number of first appeals disposed of was 558 against 203 and that of second appeals was 2,911 against 1,734. The pending file of first appeals fell from 1,070 to 809 and that of second appeals from 4,703 to 3,576. The average duration of first appeals was more than three years and that of second appeals more than two years. Compared with 1934, the duration of first appeals showed an increase, while that of second appeals remained almost the same.

(*2*) *Lower Courts—Institution.*—There was a decrees of 6,004 suits instituted in 1934 over the figure for 1933, and a decrease of 7,932 suits in 1935 over the figure for 1934. Consequently there was a decrease of 13,936 suits instituted during the last two years.

Thirteen thousand, four hundred and thirty-eight less suits were disposed of in 1935 than in 1934, while the figure for the latter year was 5,224 in excess of the figure of 1933. In consequence the disposals fell by 8,214 in the last two years. The pending file which had fallen by 19,388 in 1934, still fell by 15,920 in 1935. The number of year-old pending suits in 1934 showed a decrease over the figure of 1933 by 1,180, while the number of such suits pending in 1935 was less by 1,194 than the figure of 1934.

There has been a continued decline in the number of regular appeals disposed of and pending, the number of pending appeals having fallen from 4,762 at the close of 1934 to 4,215 at the close of 1935. Of the latter figure, 212 are pending for a period in excess of one year against 413 in 1934.

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

123. The receipt of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,78,49,307 showing an increase of Rs. 1,76,620 and the charges amounted to Rs. 83,17,232 showing an increase of Rs. 1,67,310 on those of 1934.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

*Receipts.*

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| In stamps— | |
| Process fees .. .. .. | 26,89,254 |
| Other fees .. .. .. | 1,38,99,210 |
| In cash or special stamps— | |
| Other receipts .. .. .. | 6,33,679 |
| Copying and comparing fees .. .. | 6,25,312 |
| Fines .. .. .. | 1,852 |
| Total .. | 1,78,49,307 |

*Charges.*

| | Rs. |
|---|---|
| Salaries of Judicial Officers .. .. | 29,01,789 |
| Establishment— | |
| Process servers .. .. .. | 8,27,938 |
| Others .. .. .. .. | 32,00,664 |
| Copyists' fees .. .. .. | 4,27,867 |
| Contingencies and refunds .. .. | 9,58,974 |
| Total .. | 83,17,232 |

There was an increase in receipts under all heads except "Other fees" and "Fines." Under the head "Other receipts" the increase amounted to more than Rs. 3,18,000. The increase in expenditure was under all heads except "Process-servers" and was largest under the head "Others" which exceeded the figure of 1934 by more than Rs. 94,000.

## Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1935.]

Administration of justice.

124. The Chittagong Hill Tracts were declared by a notification of the 3rd January 1921 to be "backward tracts" under section 52A of the Government of India Act. The Courts in these tracts are not subordinate to the High Court, the Deputy Commissioner's Court being the principal Court of the district and the Court of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division being the Supreme Court.

Criminal justice.

125. The number of offences reported during the year 1935 was 383. Five hundred and eighty-one persons were under trial and, of these, 332 were acquitted or discharged and 126 convicted. In the cases ending in conviction, 30 persons were sentenced to imprisonment for more than six months.

Civil justice.

126. Four hundred and thirty-four civil suits were instituted during the year under report, the total value of these suits being Rs. 52,912-8-2. Five hundred and forty-two suits were before the Courts, which disposed of all but 51.

# CHAPTER IV.

## Land Revenue Administration.

### Realisation of the revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1935-36.]

Total collection.

127. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 101,869 against 101,800 last year. Of these 93,895 were permanently-settled estates, 4,187 temporarily-settled estates (in which term are included estates of recusant properties let out in farm and Government estates let out in farm) and 3,787 estates were under the direct management of Government. The current demand was Rs. 3,12,00,557 against Rs. 3,09,43,252 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 2,57,305 was due to the resettlement of temporarily-settled estates on the termination of existing leases, to creation of new estates as the result of resumption proceedings and to the progressive increase of demand in certain Government estates. The total realisable demand including arrears of Rs. 1,17,14,458 was Rs. 4,29,15,015 out of which the amount collected was Rs. 3,15,63,983, being 73·54 per cent. of the total and 101·16 per cent. of the current demand against 71·64 per cent. and 101·18 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The total outstanding balance stood at Rs. 98,47,441 or 22·94 per cent. of the total demand.

Miscellaneous revenue.

128. The total collections of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 5·41 lakhs against Rs. 4·50 lakhs in the preceding year.

Redemption of land revenue.

129. The total number of holdings of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year under report was 266 against 251 in the preceding year. The total amount of Government revenue redeemed during the year was Rs. 321 and the total price realised was Rs. 9,551. The corresponding figures of the preceding year were Rs. 268 and Rs. 8,047, respectively.

Coercive measures: (a) Sale Law.

130. The number of defaults was 25,262 and that of sales 1,577 as compared with 30,646 and 1,930 respectively in the preceding year. The number exempted under section 18 (including those for petty arrears) was 15,288 or 90·12 per cent. of the total number advertised for sale. This indicates that the Sunset Law was administered with leniency.

(*b*) Certificates.

131. The total number of certificates instituted during the year other than those for the cesses was 201,472 as against 219,018 in the preceding year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 62;31 against 57·94 in the preceding year. In the majority of the cases payment was made on the issue of notices or attachment of property. Actual sale was necessary in 39,762 cases or 17·7 per cent. on the total number disposed of (223,543) during the year under review.

## Condition of the people.

Condition of the agricultural population.

132. During the year under report, except in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, weather conditions were most unfavourable to agriculture. There was an almost complete failure of crops in wide tracts of certain West Bengal districts. The situation was aggravated by exceptionally heavy local floods in August and finally by a complete absence of rain from September onwards. It was evident that scarcity and possibly famine would result. Prompt measures were taken to meet the situation by opening test relief works and by granting agricultural loans and gratuitous relief. Nine lakhs of rupees were distributed in agricultural loans and a sum of Rs. 47,262 was also allotted for gratuitous and charitable relief. As scarcity conditions were likely to extend over most of West Bengal an additional Commissioner was appointed in January 1936 to control and supervise relief operations. Even in Eastern and Northern Bengal, where conditions were distinctly better, there were few showers in February and March and the sowing of jute and *aus* paddy was delayed. In Rangpur tobacco was damaged by a hail-storm, which also destroyed the crop over an area of 4 square miles in the Falakata tahsil in Jalpaiguri. In Malda the floods of August damaged the standing crops while the second rise in the Ganges and Mahananda in September partly destroyed the *Kalai* crop. The outturn of crops was fair in the Chittagong Division.

General economic condition.

133. The material condition of the people improved somewhat in Eastern Bengal but deteriorated in Western Bengal. As a result of a vigorously organised propaganda to reduce the area under jute there was a rise in the price of the raw commodity though the greatest increase occurred at a time when the cultivators had already sold most of their stock. The increased cultivation of sugarcane caused a slump in its price. Owing to prolonged economic depression cultivators had no reserve out of which to meet the demands for rent and payment of interest on their debts. In Western and Northern Bengal especially

many zamindars found themselves hard put to it to pay their Government dues. Rural banks and private money-lenders were also hampered in their activities. The wages of both skilled and unskilled labour showed a tendency to fall. The landless middle class people with fixed incomes were, on the whole, in a slightly better position, but unemployment among the educated and semi-educated classes continued to be a serious problem. The economic condition of the people improved generally in districts which were not affected by weather conditions as in the Duars, in Tippera and Noakhali and in almost all the districts of the Dacca Division. One reassuring feature, worthy of mention, is that there is reported to be very little increase in the indebtedness of cultivators. This appears to be due in part to inability on the part of the debtors to incur fresh debts and also to an increasing desire to reduce existing debts. Attempts are also being made by them to increase their income by the cultivation of substitute crops and in other ways.

Debt Conciliation Boards.

134. Debt Conciliation Boards which were at work all over the Chandpur subdivision and part of the Sadar subdivision in Tippera succeeded in many cases in effecting amicable and considerable reduction in the debts and satisfactory settlement between creditors and debtors.

## Other Revenue Work.

Land registration.

135. The number of proprietary interests was 1,084,616 at the beginning of the year under report as against 1,098,640 at its end. There were 36,032 applications for new registration during the year and the rewriting of the D Registers in the districts of Murshidabad and Bakarganj has been completed. It is in progress in the district of Midnapore.

Partition.

136. There were 237 cases pending at the beginning of the year under report and thirty-two cases were instituted. Of the 269 cases for disposal, 37 were disposed of and 232 remained pending at the close of the year. A special Partition Officer was employed wholly on partition work throughout the year in the district of Mymensingh only. Estates Partition Funds exist in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh.

Land Acquisition.

137. The total area acquired was 571·3494 acres at a total cost of Rs. 68,83,118 as against 785·68 acres at Rs. 72,00,972 in the previous year. Of the total area acquired 295·65 acres were for the purpose of Government including State Railways and Companies' Railways provided with land, free of cost, by Government and 275·6994 acres were for all other purposes, as compared with 687·78 acres and 97·90 acres, respectively, in the previous year.

Loans: Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

138. The outstanding balance of land improvement loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,22,607 and Rs. 96,230 was advanced during the year. The amounts due for collection during the year on account of principal and interest were Rs. 62,058 and Rs. 16,545, respectively, out of which Rs. 19,801 and Rs. 4,574 were collected. A sum of Rs. 1,480 was remitted and the recovery of a sum of Rs. 34,902 was under suspension at the end of the year. The outstanding balance of the agricultural loans at the beginnig of the year was Rs. 14,74,479 and Rs. 8,11,052 was advanced during the year. The amounts due for collection during the year on account of principal and interest were Rs. 16,00,108 and Rs. 1,46,711, respectively, and Rs. 6,74,130 and Rs. 70,364 were collected. A sum of Rs. 6,550 was remitted during the year and Rs. 2,55,490 remained under suspension at the end of the year.

## Waste Lands.

139. During the year no new lease of waste lands was granted under the special rules in the districts of Khulna and Darjeeling. In Chittagong, an area of 349·73 acres was settled at an annual rental of Rs. 521. In Jalpaiguri, 206·16 acres of land were settled under 15 leases at a revenue of Rs. 245. Two notified grazing blocks measuring 651·32 acres were made available during the year for ordinary cultivation in the Bhalka tahsil. The area of available waste land in the Bakarganj colonization area was 15·09 square miles against 15·4 square miles reported last year. The decrease is due to the fact that the Mithaganj accretion char was settled raiyatwari during the year. Out of 15·09 square miles 11·3 square miles is covered by the Tengagiri Chak which has been kept as khas mahal reserved forest. The remaining 3·8 square miles were settled under Gorekati leases which yielded a revenue of Rs. 2,555. A grazing fee of Rs. 1,570 was also derived from an accretion to the Tengagiri Chak. A considerable area of land in Lata Chapli (a bay side estate in Bakarganj) has been kept waste as a protection against sea-waves. This yielded an income of Rs. 255. In Dacca, chars, which were unfit for cultivation, were settled for grazing purposes. In Faridpur, alluvial formations of khas patit lands comprising an area of 780·98 acres were settled at a total rent of Rs. 2,779 and salami of Rs. 1,507. An area of 4,843·71 acres of grazing char lands in Chittagong was settled with a Court of Wards estate for a term of 5 years at an annual rent of Rs. 180. In Noakhali, a raiyatwari settlement of 2,348·7 acres of new char lands was concluded at a revenue of Rs. 7,940. Satisfactory progress

was also made in the reclamation of jungle lands at Burir Char and Char Jahazmara in South Hatiya; 1,788·17 acres of land were surveyed, demarcated and identified during the year. All attempts to conclude a farming settlement of Char Dubli in Bankura failed. It has, therefore, been decided to bring the estate under khas management of Government. There was no settlement of char areas in any other district.

## Government Estates.

Number and Management.

140. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals who have refused to take settlement on the terms offered by Government, and excluding numerous small holdings in Calcutta, each of which is technically an "estate," as well as the Orphanganj Market and the Hastings Estate in 24-Parganas district, was 3,785 with a total annual demand of Rs. 70,61,659 against 3,587 estates with an aggregate demand of Rs. 67,21,556 in the preceding year. Agricultural demonstrations were carried out in the districts of Jessore, Jalpaiguri, Bogra, Malda and Darjeeling and in the several districts of the Chittagong Division. In furtherance of the scheme to encourage *bhadralok* youths to take to agriculture as a means of reducing unemployment, lands were allotted to the *sixth* batch of *bhadralok* youths, on the completion of their training in the Faridpur Agricultural Farm. In the 24-Parganas 100 bighas of land were settled with *bhadralok* agriculturists. In Chittagong 76·78 acres of land has been settled with a graduate *bhadralok*. In Malda about 180 bighas of land was settled with one Muhammadan graduate. The number of schools and of pupils attending them in Government estates increased by 144 and 13,880, respectively, during the year under review.

Grant for management and improvement.

141. Out of the total grant for the management and improvement of Government estates a sum of Rs. 6,82,371 or 9·5 per cent. of the current demand was spent on management and Rs. 1,80,009 or 2·5 per cent. on improvement against 8·5 per cent. and 1·4 per cent respectively, in the preceding year. Of the latter sum, Rs. 99,024 was spent on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 27,043 on tanks and wells, Rs. 42,701 on miscellaneous and agricultural improvements including repairs to roads and bridges, clearing of jungles and agricultural experiments and a sum of Rs. 11,241 was spent on the improvement of hats and markets in all divisions of the Presidency.

Colonisation of the Sundarbans.

142. The year under report was the twenty-ninth year of the colonisation scheme of the Bakarganj Sunderbans. In the

24-Parganas Sunderbans (colonisation of which was in its twenty-first year) no new area was taken up for reclamation. The total sum advanced by Government for reclamation in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj Sunderbans and the total income derived from these areas up to the end of the year under report were Rs. 32,54,808 and Rs. 46,04,118, respectively. The general health of the people in the Bakarganj Sunderbans area was good; there was no material improvement, however, in their economic condition. In the 24-Parganas Sunderbans the health of the colonists was better than in the previous year. The outturn of crop was however poor due to adverse weather conditions.

## Wards and Attached Estates.

Number of estates.

143. At the beginning of the year under report the total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 125. Seven new estates were brought under management of the Court and 3 estates were released during the year. Thus at the close of the year there were 129 estates in charge of the Court.

Payment of revenue and cesses.

144. Out of the aggregate of Rs. 89,75,727 due to Government as revenue and cesses, a sum of Rs. 73,05,186 or 81·3 per cent. of the total was paid during the year, as aganist 80·2 per cent. in the previous year. In all 69 estates defaulted in payment of full revenue and cess, and with one exception these included all the estates in the districts of Jessore and Rangpur. Though the balance outstanding from the Kasimbazar Raj Estate is still heavy, the position is improving and the Manager hopes to reduce the arrears considerably in the current year as a result of better collection.

Collection of rent and cesses.

145. The total demand of rent and cesses due to the estates under the management of the Court was Rs. 4,89,35,975 (including an arrear of Rs. 3,05,43,559), of which Rs. 1,71,68,070 or 35·0 per cent. was collected during the year as against 34·8 per cent. in the preceding year. The outstanding balance of rent and cess due to all the estates under the management of the Court aggregated Rs. 2,93,92,877 which represented 158·2 per cent. on the current demand as against 167·2 per cent. in the previous year. The prescribed standard of 100 per cent. on the current demand was reached or exceeded in 49 estates of which 7 were in the Burdwan Division, 3 in the Presidency Division, 30 in the Dacca Division, 6 in the Chittagong Division, and 3 in the Rajshahi Division. There has been a marked improvement in almost all the estates in the Dacca Division, where out of 41 estates 30 reached or exceeded the prescribed standard of 100

per cent. The fall in the percentage of collections in certain estates is attributed to the general slump in the price of paddy and jute, economic depression and scarcity of rain, etc.

Debt of estates.

146. The total amount of ascertained debts of the Court of Wards Estates in the Presidency at the close of the year under report stood at Rs. 2,89,41,124 against Rs. 3,39,69,781 in the preceding year. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced was Rs. 44,20,325 and the interest paid or otherwise reduced Rs. 17,18,584, as compared with Rs. 22,25,315 and Rs. 16,40,257, respectively, in the previous year.

Management charges.

147. The percentage of cost of management of the estates in the whole Presidency on their current rent and cess demand was 11·8 as against 9·7 of the preceding year.

Improvements.

148. The standards fixed for minimum expenditure on education and works of improvement in solvent estates are 1 and 3 per cent. respectively on their current rent and cess demand. The total sum spent during the year under these heads by the estates amounted to Rs. 5,52,269 against Rs. 5,83,122 in the preceding year. Some of the more important items of expenditure merit particular notice. The Burdwan Raj Estate contributed Rs. 74,881 for educational purposes, Rs. 20,709 for three charitable dispensaries, Rs. 12,500 for the Burdwan Fraser Hospital, Rs. 300 for the Kurseong Dispensary, and Rs. 1,11,303 for works of improvement. The Mahisadal Estate spent Rs. 11,229 for educational purposes and contributed Rs. 7,195 to a charitable dispensary and other dispensaries and hospitals within the estate. Of the total amount of Rs. 15,352 spent on works of improvement in Midnapore, the Mahisadal Estate alone contributed Rs. 10,481. The Kasimbazar Raj Estate expended Rs. 39,048 on works of miscellaneous improvement and Rs. 20,000 as grant-in-aid to the Krishnath College at Berhampore. The Dacca Nawab estate paid a total sum of Rs. 28,660 under all heads. The Bhowal Estate spent Rs. 21,220 on education, which is over 3 per cent. of the current demand, and Rs. 10,752 in maintaining four charitable dispensaries. Besides it helped substantially to establish one Union Board Dispensary under the Government scheme in Hazratpur Union Board opened by his Excellency, the Governor of Bengal. It also spends Rs. 26,975 on agricultural and sanitary improvements and Rs. 41,239 on works of other improvements. This estate maintained a farm and an agricultural demonstrator to carry out demonstrations of improved methods of cultivation, and in January 1936 it held an Agricultural, Industrial, and Health Exhibition for the second time for a week. During the year the estate purchased a sugarcane

machine and installed it to encourage the cultivation of sugarcane and maintained two stud bulls to improve cattle breeding in the locality. The Gayahatta Estate maintains the Agricultural Farm at Gayahatta at its own cost. The Majitpur Estate in Tippera maintained a demonstrator for 6 months for giving practical demonstrations on agricultural improvements and doing propaganda in selected centres. One instructor for cottage industries was also maintained for 3 months. This estate also purchased two stud bulls to improve cattle breeding in the locality.

## Revenue and rent-paying classes.

Bengal Tenancy Act, the extent of its application.

149. The districts of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, as well as the town of Calcutta, continued to be outside the scope of the Act, while in the Western Duars portion of the Jalpaiguri district it applied, as before, to a modified extent. The Act operated fully in the rest of the province.

Measures to compel the issue of rent receipts.

150. As in previous years very little use was made by the tenants of the provisions of section 58 of the Act when landlords did not give proper rent receipts.

Relation between landlords and tenants.

151. Taking the province as a whole, the relations between landlords and tenants, though generally satisfactory, were strained in some districts on account of the prevalent economic depression. This was most noticeable in Birbhum, Howrah, Dinajpur and Rangpur. Floods and scarcity in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura and Hooghly intensified the acuteness of the situation and made the collection of rents from raiyats and tenure-holders in those districts difficult. The activities of some irresponsible members of Krishak Samities are reported to have hampered collection in Noakhali. Several of the big zamindari estates in the districts gave remission of interest on rents to encourage voluntary payment. To facilitate realisation of rents private landlords of this Province have been granted the privilege of certificate powers under section 158A of the Bengal Tenancy Act as liberally as possible. The relations between khas mahal tenants and the Government tahsildari establishments continued to be satisfactory.

## The Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1935-36.]

Land revenue.

152. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts which are administered under the special Regulation I of 1900 and the rules framed thereunder, the land revenue proper consists of rent from lands

settled for plough cultivation as opposed to the shifting cultivation by *jhuming*. Three hundred and sixty-nine "amalnamas" covering an approximate area of 601·18 acres were issued during the year against one hundred and seventy-nine covering 304·15 acres in the preceding year. The current demand of land revenue on account of plough rent was Rs. 1,51,810 against Rs. 1,58,885 in the previous year. Collection in the year amounted to 64 per cent. of the current demand and 77 per cent. of the arrears.

Forest and other revenues.

153. The revenue from the forest reserves and unclassed State forest increased from Rs. 1,03,463 in the preceding year to Rs. 1,15,149 and the revenue on the sun grass of the unclassed State forests amounted to Rs. 5,649 against Rs. 7,540 in the preceding year. These figures do not include the amount received as revenue in the Chittagong Forest Division on account of the forests in the Hill Tracts. The total demand of *jhum* tax during the year was Rs. 16,182. The whole of this amount was realised. Other revenues including court fees and registration fees amounted to Rs. 44,140 against Rs. 42,609 in the preceding year.

Condition of the people.

154. There was a good harvest both in *jhum* and plough lands during the year. Rainfall during the year was generally favourable to all kinds of crops, but the river Kassalong rose in flood and submerged crops over a wide area in the valley. The price of unginned cotton varied from Rs. 3-2 to Rs. 6 per maund and that of paddy from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per 100 "aris" as in the preceding year.

There was a severe outbreak of cholera in the Chengi Valley, 194 persons having died out of 287 persons attacked. Necessary precautionary measures were taken towards the end of the year against a fresh outbreak.

## Surveys.

[Report on the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1935.]

Works of the year.

155. The work done during the year under report consisted of post-pointing traverse of an area of 1,098 square miles in the upland area of 9 thanas in the district of Dinajpur and of 231 square miles in 7 thanas of the district of Howrah. In addition to this, traverse by ordinary method was done for 5 square miles of the municipality of Dinajpur, for 21 square miles of the Rupnarayan river lying between the districts of Howrah and Midnapore, as also of a portion of the Hooghly river lying between the districts of Howrah and 24-Parganas; 58 square miles comprising 92 villages in 4 police-stations of Howrah, 63 square

miles of a portion of the Hooghly river lying between Howrah and 24-Parganas, 4 square miles of a mauza in police-station Nageswari, district Rangpur. Minor traverses by the ordinary method were also undertaken and completed during the year for an area of 187 square miles in Bakarganj, 52 square miles in Mymensingh, 7 square miles in Jalpaiguri, 17 square miles in Rajshahi, 7 square miles in Murshidabad, 3 square miles in 24-Parganas, and for an area of 0·21 square miles covered by lease-hold lands of Tollyganj Club in police-station Tollyganj, district 24-Parganas. Cadastral survey was for the first time taken up in 255 and 25 square miles of Dinajpur and Howrah districts.

Reproduction of maps.

156. The total number of sheets printed during the year was 12,033 involving 671,599 pulls against 10,119 sheets and 911,928 pulls in the previous year. Three thousand nine hundred and thirty-two celluloids for the area under air survey and 2,222 sheets for the revisional settlement were printed in blue. Final 1-inch police-station maps in colours of 4 police-stations, $\frac{1}{4}$-inch district maps in colours of 3 districts and 1-inch not final maps of 65 police-stations as also 311 sheets of 4-inch jurisdiction maps were also printed during the year.

## Land Records and Settlement.

[Annual Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Bengal for the year ending 30th September 1935.]

General.

157. Out of a total area of 65,080 square miles of the Province to which the Bengal Tenancy Act has been extended a record-of-rights has been prepared and finally published for 58,459 square miles, and was, during the year under report, in the course of preparation for 3,806 square miles.

Major operations.

158. Major settlement operations were in progress in the districts of Burdwan-Hooghly, Malda, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Howrah.

Burdwan-Hooghly.

159. The work done during the year under report consisted of (1) Re-survey of the Rishra-Konnagore Municipal roads and drains on the scale of 128 inches, (2) re-bujharat and attestation under Government orders of 2 villages in Arambagh subdivision in Hooghly district, (3) compilation of statistical records, (4) comparison and reconciliation of the records of the resumed chaukidari chakran lands in the district of Hooghly with the collectorate records, (5) 16-inch mapping, (6) topo maps, (7) printing, (8) computation, (9) recovery, (10) diara resumption, (11) jamabandi, (12) case-work, and (13) Asansol petty settlement.

With the exception of the area involved in diara and jamabandi proceedings and half of the Serampore thana, the preparation of 16-inch and 4-inch maps was completed for the entire district of Hooghly. Records of 576 square miles in Hooghly covering 320,093 interests were printed in the year; the cost rate was 2 as. 2 p. per interest. In respect of 63·54 square miles in Burdwan district and 268 square miles in Hooghly, computation of the recoverable cost was made during the year. In Burdwan district, out of the computed demand of Rs. 20,24,099 only Rs. 1,37,848 remained to be recovered, Rs. 63,019 of which is covered by certificates and Rs. 30,199 by Sadar accounts for landlords; the balance represents petty demands a part of which will have ultimately to be remitted. In Hooghly district the total amount of the computed demand during the year under review was Rs. 5,77,455 and out of that a sum of Rs. 3,22,695 had been realised leaving a balance of Rs. 2,54,759. Forty-two cases of resumption proceedings were confirmed by the Board; the new revenue of the resumed area is Rs. 979. Resumption proceedings covering an area of 638·30 acres were also initiated during the year and were awaiting fair rent settlement. Rent-rolls of 36 estates out of 136 were confirmed during the year. In some of these estates the existing revenue was found higher than the lands could bear owing to deterioration of the soil and in some others considerable diluvion had taken place. After careful local enquiry rents were, in these estates, lowered where necessary, and as a corollary the revenue payable for them was reduced from Rs. 3,210 to Rs. 2,973. One thousand three hundred and fourteen proceedings under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, involving 6,930 tenancies and 563 cases under section 106 in the district of Burdwan, and 590 proceedings under section 105 involving 1,449 tenancies and 226 cases under section 106, Bengal Tenancy Act, in the district of Hooghly were disposed of during the year under review. Thirty-four appeals against orders in cases under section 105 were disposed of by the Special Judge; in 24 the orders were upheld, in 6 modified, and 4 cases were sent back for further hearing. Out of 12 appeals against orders under section 106 tried by the Special Judge, in 6 cases the orders were upheld, in 4 cases modified, and 2 cases sent for re-trial.

160. The work done during the year consisted of completion of (1) statistics (66 square miles), (2) 16-inch mapping (13 square miles), (3) 4-inch and 2-inch topo mapping (146 and 402 square miles), (4) final records (70 square miles), (5) final publication (70 square miles), (6) jamabandi (1½ square miles), (7) diara resumption (in respect of an area of 4·34 square miles), Malda.

(8) case work (294 square miles), and (9) computation and recovery (227 square miles).

In respect of the diara proceedings confirmed by the Board up to September, 1935, covering an area of 4,894:53 acres, the new revenue secured is Rs. 8,454 a year. Resumption proceedings involving an area of 1,957 acres were under submission to Board. From these proceedings a revenue of Rs. 2,893 per year is expected and from those which were being made ready for submission to the Board a further amount of revenue of Rs. 2,450 may be added; as a result of diara operations in the district the ultimate increase in revenue may be taken to be Rs. 14,000 a year. Four thousand two hundred and eighty-two cases under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, 189 cases under section 106, 44 petitions under section 108 and 119 under section 115(B) were disposed of during the year. The total computed demand for the settlement is Rs. 12,57,799 out of which Rs. 11,84,284 were recovered up to the end of September 1935. The balance is partly covered by certificates and partly by agreements for payment by instalments, excepting a small amount with petty demands of Re. 1 or below of which recovery was being attempted. During the year ending 31st March 1935, Rs. 3,13,817 was realised under section 114, Bengal Tenancy Act, against an estimate of Rs. 3,16,182. During the year under report out of a programme to realise Rs. 1,42,358 (after adjustment due to remissions) Rs. 69,356 was collected.

**Rangpur.**

161. The survey of the last cadastral block of the district covering an area of 758 square miles was done during the year under report. The work done consisted of cadastral survey, khanapuri, bujharat, attestation, objection, janch, statistics, 16-inch mapping, topo maps, final records, computation and recovery, case work, jamabandi and diara. The photographs of the cadastral area supplied by the Indian Air Survey and Transport, Limited, were even better this year; only 32 photographs had to be returned to the company for fresh rectification. About 6,600 rent-free claims were filed by the parties in the year, in 6,555 of which the claims were upheld; four thousand one hundred and sixty-three mokorari claims were examined during attestation of which 86 per cent. were allowed; three thousand four hundred and twenty-one rent disputes were dealt with in the year, of which 825 cases were found to be of illegal enhancement. The total number of objections under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, dealt with in the year was 7,947, of which 49 per cent. were allowed. Up to the middle of September 1935 the number of applications filed under section 105 was 8,342 and the number under section 106 was 477, out of which 6,425 pro-

ceedings under section 105 and 272 under section 106 were disposed of. The number of interests printed during the year was 386,000 covering an area of 898 square miles. The computed demand for recovery during the year was Rs. 9,40,161 and of that a sum of Rs. 4,76,500 was realised during the year under review leaving a balance of Rs. 4,63,661. Three diara resumption proceedings were confirmed by the Board during the year yielding a new revenue of Rs. 3,295 a year, while 11 other proceedings were in different stages of progress.

Dinajpur.

162. The survey operations in the first block of this district covering an area of 886 square miles and lying in 7 thanas were initiated in the year under report. The work done during the year comprised of (1) cadastral survey by ordinary method—255 square miles, (2) khanapuri—874 square miles, and (3) bujharat —680 square miles. The photos supplied by the Indian Air Survey and Transport, Limited, was very satisfactory, only 18 out of 1,358 being required to be sent back for rectification. Of the plots bujharated 300,271 were done by kanungos and 540,256 by sardar amins, while 332,694 plots were left over to be dealt with in the next season.

Howrah.

163. The programme for the year was the survey of first block of the district covering an area of 204·95 square miles which was completed up to the stage of bujharat. The work started mainly on photos supplied by the Indian Air Survey and Transport, Limited, an area of 10 square miles being done by ordinary traverse. The photographs were accurately rectified and it was not difficult to fill in the details by local survey. The total number of plots in the block was found to be 434,951. During khanapuri as many as 3,540 disputes were decided, while in the previous stage gazetted officers were responsible for "partal" of 15½ linear miles and kanungos 301 linear miles. Of the plots, 81 per cent. of the bujharat was done by sardar amin and 19 per cent. by the kanungos under whom the former worked.

Land Revenue Settlement operations.

164. Minor settlement operations were in progress in 14 districts—Dacca, Noakhali, Bakarganj, Mymensingh, 24-Parganas, Khulna, Jalpaiguri, Midnapore, Bankura, Bogra, Nadia, Murshidabad, Rajshahi and Pabna. In Dacca the pending work of the previous year consisting of the re-settlement of 12 town khas mahals and 10 non-agricultural estates at Narayanganj progressed up to the stage of section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, when further work was held up for the enactment of the Non-Agricultural Land Assessment Bill. Rate reports of 4 Dacca town estates were confirmed by the Board during the year; the increase in revenue expected from these 4 estates is Rs. 4,969 a year.

Noakhali.

165. The operation in this district was in its closing stage. The programme for the year was (1) 16-inch mapping, (2) final copy, (3) settlement of fair rent, (4) settlement of land revenue, and (5) diara resumption. Fair rents were settled in respect of 72 square miles. Settlement of land revenue of 19 estates with an area of 212 square miles was completed resulting in an increase of revenue by Rs. 55,850 a year. The diara proceedings drawn up reached the stage of final proceedings.

Bakarganj.

166. Work during the year was carried on in the 5 estates partly done in the previous year, 3 of which had been completed in the year while work in 2 others was in progress. Fifty-nine other estates with an area of 169 square miles were taken up under operation in the year, 162 square miles requiring cadastral survey. The increase in revenue secured during the year from the 3 completed estates is Rs. 19,704 a year. Since the beginning of the revision of revenue operations in this district an increase of Rs. 3,35,218 has been secured at a cost of Rs. 5,96,980 which includes the work done in estates still under revision.

Mymensingh.

167. The programme of operation in this district is the resettlement of land revenue of 116 Government and 705 temporarily-settled private estates. The operation was started in the previous year. In the year under report a new area of 102·33 square miles was taken up for survey and settlement which together with the area of 8·50 square miles left pending in the previous year's block covered the field programme for the year. Work up to the stage of draft publication under section 103A was completed for 103·83 square miles leaving 7 square miles pending. Out of the 211 estates taken up during the previous year, rate reports of 62 estates were approved in that year and 145 in the year under review. Work in various stages was in progress in these estates and the new revision in most of them was expected to come into force from April 1935.

24-Parganas-Khulna.

168. The minor operation in these two districts covered land revenue settlement of 52 estates with an area of 134 square miles, of which rent-rolls of 8 square miles had already been confirmed, while out of the remainder, 61 square miles were pending for confirmation; work in this area reached different stages of rent settlement proceedings. The increase in revenue secured in the year as a result of these proceedings is Rs. 5,700 a year.

Jalpaiguri.

169. The rent-rolls of the Falakata Tahsil covering an area of 293 square miles and Bhalkatahsil—70 square miles and of

Alipur Duar Tahsil—14 square miles were confirmed by the Board during the year. Records of 685 square miles were printed and those of 888 square miles distributed to all grades of tenants. The total cost incurred to the end of the year was Rs. 4,15,287 and the increase in revenue secured as a result of the operation is Rs. 2,71,378. Four tea grants in the Western Duars covering an area of 26 square miles were also taken up during the year. The programme was duly completed, the increase in revenue secured being Rs. 12,931 a year.

170. The programme of work for the year under review consisted of (1) cadastral survey of C Block covering an area of 117 square miles and 128,000 plots, (2) attestation on B Block, 316 square miles, and (3) submission of preliminary proposals in A and B Blocks for settlement of fair rent. The performance was fully up to the programme. The preliminary proposals for settlement of fair rents were approved by the Board during the year in the 2 main estates, Jalamutha and Majnamutha. Midnapore.

171. The operation in this district started in the year. The total programme was re-settlement of the 24 Government estates and 85 temporarily-settled private estates covering approximately an area of 17 square miles. The lands are mostly char lands on the bed of the Damodar and are not very fertile. Work up to the stage of attestation of draft records was done in the year in 11 square miles; the remaining area was to form the next year's programme. Bankura.

172. The programme in this district consisted of resumption under Regulation II of 1819 of an extensive beel known as Bil Bhomra lying on the boundary between the districts of Bogra and Rajshahi and covering an area of a little over 3½ square miles The performance during the year consisted of cadastral survey, khanapuri, bujharat, attestation, drawing up of preliminary proceedings and hearing of objections against such proceedings. The operation was expected to be completed in the succeeding year. Bogra.

173. This minor operation covers an area of 79½ square miles in Nadia, 6½ square miles in Murshidabad and 43 square miles in Rajshahi district; the work commenced on 1st February 1935. The programme for the year consisted of bujharat and attestation of 91 square miles out of the total programme of 129 square miles. Performance was up to the programme. Nadia-Murshidabad-Rajshahi.

Pabna. 174. The operation in this district was at its closing stage. The programme for the year under report was the work which remained pending at the close of the previous year and consisted of settlement of land revenue—3½ square miles, printing of records—14½ square miles, printing of 16-inch maps—14½ square miles; the programme was completed in time. The total cost of the operation is Rs. 1,24,277 and the total increase in revenue secured is Rs. 36,100 a year.

# CHAPTER V.

## Revenue and Finance.

### Imperial Revenue and Finance, 1935-36.

175. The total revenue for the year 1935-36 from central heads amounted to Rs. 21,86,00,000 against Rs. 20,80,00,000 in 1934-35. Increases occurred chiefly under "Customs" (Rs. 79½ lakhs), "Taxes on Income" (Rs. 13 lakhs), "Salt" (Rs. 14 lakhs), "Public Health" (Rs. 44,000) and "Civil Works" (Rs. 57,000), counterbalanced to a certain extent by decreases under "Interest" (Rs. 1 lakh) and "Ports and Pilotage" (Rs. 1 lakh). The increases under "Customs" and "Taxes on Income" were due mainly to improved trade conditions; while the excise duties on sugar and matches yielded an increase of Rs. 33 lakhs in customs revenue. Under "Salt" the increase compared with last year is due to the fact that owing to the large clearances in February 1934 in apprehension of an impending rise in salt duty, there was a decline in the consumption of salt during the first 6 months of 1934-35. Payment by the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, of arrear contributions in respect of ships entering the Port of Calcutta accounted for increased receipts under "Public Health" and the increase under "XXX—Civil Works" was on account of the rent of the office building occupied by the Reserve Bank of India. **Receipts.**

176. The expenditure under central heads during 1935-36 amounted to Rs. 3,04,63,000 against Rs. 3,05,35,000 in the previous year. Increases occurred mainly under the following heads:— **Expenditure.**

(1) "Customs" (Rs. 2½ lakhs), due to abolition of emergency deduction and increased cost in the collection of excise duties on matches and sugar;

(2) "Taxes on Income" (Rs. 1½ lakhs), due to increased staff, usual increments of pay and abolition of emergency cut;

(3) "Civil Works" (Rs. 1 lakh), due to larger expenditure under "Repairs" and "Establishment"; and

(4) "Miscellaneous adjustments, etc." (Rs. 9 lakhs), representing Bengal's share of the jute export duty, due to increased export of jute.

These increases were more than counterbalanced by decreased expenditure under (1) "Interest on Ordinary Debt" (Rs. 1 lakh) and (2) "Superannuation Allowances and Pensions" (Rs. 14 lakhs). The decrease under the former head was mainly due to smaller payment of interest on 6½ per cent. Treasury Bonds,

1935, 4½ per cent. Bonds, 1934, and 4 per cent. loan of 1934-37 owing to the discharge of the loans as well as to the smaller payment of interest on 3½ per cent. non-terminable loan of 1865; while the decrease under the latter was due chiefly to the transfer of the payment of postal pensions from the Accountant-General, Bengal's office.

177.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS.

[Figures are in thousands.]

| Major heads. | Actuals, 1934-35. | Actuals, 1935-36. |
|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| I—Customs | 14,02,38 | 14,81,81 |
| II—Taxes on income | 4,33,59 | 4,46,74 |
| III—Salt | 2,08,63 | 2,22,76 |
| X—Payments from Indian States | 68 | 68 |
| XVI—Interest | 10,66 | 9,84 |
| XX—Ports and Pilotage | 18,10 | 17,16 |
| XXII—Public Health | 8 | 52 |
| XXVI—Miscellaneous Departments | 1,38 | 1,54 |
| XXVII—Currency | 11 | .. |
| XXX—Civil Works | 1,41 | 1,98 |
| XXXIII—Receipts in aid of superannuation | 2,22 | 2,38 |
| XXXV—Miscellaneous | 40 | 59 |
| Total | 20,79,64 | 21,86,00 |

178.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE.

[Figures are in thousands.]

| Major heads. | Actuals, 1934-35. | Actuals, 1935-36. |
|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1—Customs | 22,82 | 25,42 |
| 2—Taxes on income | 12,62 | 13,93 |
| 3—Salt | 2,93 | 2,94 |
| 19—Interest on Ordinary Debt | 14,43 | 13,60 |
| 20—Interest on other obligations | 23,38 | 23,85 |
| 22—General Administration | 19 | 55 |
| 23—Audit | 8,92 | 9,24 |
| 24—Administration of Justice | 35 | 36 |
| 26—Police | 95 | 71 |
| 27—Ports and Pilotage | 12,61 | 12,31 |
| 28—Ecclesiastical | 1,61 | 1,58 |
| 29—Political | 68 | 53 |
| 33—Public Health | 87 | 90 |
| 37—Miscellaneous Departments | 59 | 62 |
| 41—Civil Works | 8,49 | 9,44 |
| 44—Territorial and Political Pensions | 6,16 | 6,16 |
| 45—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions | 27,21 | 12,97 |
| 46—Stationery and Printing | 2 | 2 |
| 47—Miscellaenous | 65 | 64 |
| 51—Miscellaneous adjustment between Central and Provincial Governments | 1,59,68 | 1,68,78 |
| 52—Extraordinary charges | 19 | 8 |
| 61—Payments to Retrenched Personnel | .. | .. |
| Total | 3,05,35 | 3,04,63 |

## Salt.

[Salt Administration Report, 1935-36.]

Imports.

179. The total quantity of salt imported into Bengal was 15,357,978 maunds compared with 14,005,681 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 9·65 per cent. Calcutta received 14,411,686 maunds or 93·84 per cent. and Chittagong 946,292 maunds or 6·16 per cent. of the whole; the percentages for 1934-35 were 93·14 per cent. and 6·86 per cent., respectively.

Consumption and prices.

180. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption from Calcutta and Chittagong during the year was 13,754,839 maunds against 13,269,488 in the previous year. The average wholesale price per maund, inclusive of duty, was six pies less than in the previous year. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 55 as in the previous year, while there was no sale of Port Said salt in Chittagong during the year.

## Income-tax.

General conditions.

181. The general economic depression continued with less intensity during the year 1934-35 with the result that trade conditions during that year, the income of which was brought under assessment during the year under review, were as a whole much better than in the year immediately preceding.

Jute showed marked improvement in the year under review and brought in much more revenue than in the preceding year. In spite of the fact that the Tea Restriction Scheme continued during the year under report trade conditions in tea was very unsatisfactory. The selling price of tea fell considerably on account of accumulation of stock with a consequent fall of revenue to only 60 per cent. of the preceding year's demand. Naturally, as in 1934-35, businesses interlinked with the tea concerns did not fare well. There was a considerable fall in the income of sugar concerns as a result of damage suffered by them in the Behar Earthquake of 1934.

Business in rice mills, bell-metal, and import of rice and paddy, in the outlying districts, was very much affected. The condition in moneylending business as a whole went from bad to worse. The passing of the Bengal Rural Indebtedness Act adversely affected the position of money-lenders.

Poorer return from these sources was, however, to a great extent compensated by the increased return from Jute. Coal, Railway and Steamship Companies yielded almost the same results as in the preceding year. Indian piece-goods did well, but the results obtained from British and Japanese piece-goods were not so satisfactory. Better results were obtained from engineering and electrical concerns, mineral oils and almost all other sources of revenue than in the preceding year.

The assessed income for the year under review was Rs. 32,91,66,533 against Rs. 29,72,78,351 of the previous year. The basic figure of 1920-21 as revised up to March 1936 is Rs. 62,62,36,484. The assessed income for 1935-36 being much less than the basic figure, the local Government derives no benefit from Devolution Rule 15.

The Indian Finance Act, 1935, continued the "Summary Procedure" for assessments of lower grade incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,999, but effected a reduction in the rates of income-tax on incomes, between the grades of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,499 and Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,999. This Act of 1935 brought in a revenue of Rs. 8,65,461 (income-tax) from assessment on lower incomes and of Rs. 67,93,793 on account of surcharge as compared with Rs. 9,88,805 and Rs. 82,61,413, respectively, in the previous year. The total net collection from all sources of income in the year under report was Rs. 2,88,08,771 as income-tax and Rs. 1,36,38,144 as super-tax as compared with Rs. 2,66,73,885 and Rs. 1,34,58,001, respectively, in the previous year. Other statistics will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, to the Central Board of Revenue.

## Provincial Revenue and Finance, 1935-36.

General.

182. Excluding the opening and closing balances (Rs. 30 and Rs. 41 lakhs, respectively), the total receipts and expenditure during 1935-36 were Rs. 12,34,00,000 and Rs. 12,23,00,000, respectively, and exceeded the previous year's actuals by Rs. 68 lakhs and Rs. 74 lakhs, respectively. The sanctioned estimates provided for an opening and closing balance of Rs. 12 lakhs which represented the earmarked balance of the Famine Relief Fund only and a loan of Rs. 65 lakhs from the Provincial Loans Fund to cover the deficit. The actual opening balance was Rs. 18 lakhs above expectation. The receipts were also Rs. 74 lakhs above the estimate and the expenditure was less than the estimate

by Rs. 2 lakhs. The year thus closed with a balance of Rs. 29 lakhs in addition to the Famine Relief Fund balance of Rs. 12 lakhs, instead of with a deficit of Rs. 65 lakhs as originally anticipated. Excluding the capital accounts, the revenue receipts were less than the revenue expenditure by Rs. 3¾ lakhs, as against a revenue deficit of Rs. 5¼ lakhs during the preceding year.

183. Compared with the preceding year, the total receipts in 1935-36 were higher by Rs. 68 lakhs. Receipts.

The main factors which contributed towards this increase were—

(*a*) Government of India's grant (Rs. 16 lakhs) for the improvement of rural areas.

(*b*) Increased receipts from jute export duty (Rs. 9 lakhs).

(*c*) Increased revenue from the new taxation measures [*e.g.*, Electricity Duty, Bengal Tobacco (Sales Licensing) Act, Indian Stamps (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1935, and Court Fees (Bengal Second Amendment) Act, 1935, and Amusement Tax (Amendment), Act] (Rs. 22 lakhs).

184. Expenditure in 1935-36 was higher by Rs. 74 lakhs than that in 1934-35. Expenditure.

Besides the abolition of the emergency deduction in pay, which was responsible for an increase of Rs. 17 lakhs, and the usual increments of pay, the following were the main factors contributing to the increase:—

(1) Elections to the Assembly (Rs. 1½ lakhs);

(2) Entertainment of additional officers and staff to deal with the subversive movements in the province (Rs. 2½ lakhs);

(3) Increased grant to local bodies for primary education (Rs. ½ lakh);

(4) Increased expenditure by Industries Department for weaving institutes, Electrical Adviser's office and Electrical Advisory Board, and also for grants-in-aid to Calcutta Technical Institute and Bengal Home Industries Association (Rs. 1½ lakhs);

(5) Increased expenditure for road development works and new works by Public Works Department (Rs. 6 lakhs);

(6) Purchase of six Bengali lino-type machines for the Bengal Government Press (Rs. 1 lakh) for election work;

(7) Increased expenditure for the Damodar Canal (Rs. 2½ lakhs);

(8) Payment of commuted value of pensions to a larger number of applicants (Rs. 7½ lakhs);

(9) Expenditure for rural uplift work (Rs. 4 lakhs) out of Government of India's grant;

(10) Repayment of the advances taken from the Provincial Loans Fund, which had been postponed during 1933-34 and 1934-35 owing to financial stringency (Rs. 10½ lakhs); and

(11) Increased expenditure out of the grant made by the Government of India from the proceeds of the increased taxation on motor spirit for road development (Rs. 3 lakhs).

185. During the year under review, Sir Otto Niemeyer who had been instructed by His Majesty's Government to report on the financial adjustments considered advisable between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments under the new constitution, visited Calcutta, and his Report was published on 1st May 1936. According to this Report the approximate amount of annual budgetary relief which Bengal may expect from the date on which Provincial Autonomy commences, is Rs. 75 lakhs.

186.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS.

[Figures are in thousands.]

| Heads. | Actuals, 1934-35. | Budget, 1935-36. | Actuals, 1935-36. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| III—Salt .. .. .. .. | 1,19 | 1,00 | 96 |
| V—Land Revenue .. .. | 3,43,85 | 3,25,89 | 3,43,29 |
| VI—Excise .. .. .. | 1,36,65 | 1,38,00 | 1,33,73 |
| VII—Stamps .. .. .. | 2,86,03 | 2,96,00 | 2,95,94 |
| VIII—Forest .. .. .. | 17,82 | 18,03 | 20,10 |
| IX—Registration .. .. | 22,43 | 25,00 | 23,70 |
| IXA—Scheduled Taxes .. .. | 13,77 | 12,50 | 14,71 |
| XII—Subsidised Companies .. .. | .. | 55 | 53 |
| XIII—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept .. | —5,68 | —4,28 | —1,72 |
| XIV—Irrigation, Navigation, etc., Works for which no capital accounts are kept | 2,55 | 2,10 | 1,88 |
| XVI—Interest .. .. .. | 6,83 | 5,65 | 5,57 |
| XVII—Administration of Justice .. | 15,19 | 13,23 | 16,97 |
| XVIII—Jails and Convict Settlements .. | 6,51 | 7,20 | 6,39 |
| XIX—Police .. .. .. | 11,72 | 8,20 | 7,77 |
| XX—Ports and Pilotage .. .. | 94 | 90 | 1,19 |
| XXI—Education .. .. .. | 14,40 | 14,13 | 14,57 |
| XXII—Medical .. .. .. | 10,84 | 10,68 | 9,10 |
| XXIII—Public Health .. .. | 1,35 | 1,42 | 1,31 |
| XXIV—Agriculture .. .. .. | 5,74 | 6,06 | 6,53 |
| XXV—Industries .. .. .. | 8,97 | 10,34 | 11,83 |
| XXVI—Miscellaneous Departments .. | 14,61 | 17,79 | 19,52 |
| XXX—Civil Works .. .. | 13,77 | 19,66 | 16,69 |
| XXXII—Tranfer from Famine Relief Fund .. | 1,66 | 51 | 61 |
| XXXIII—Receipts in aid of superannuation .. | 1,21 | 1,27 | 1,34 |
| XXXIV—Stationery and Printing .. | 4,54 | 4,62 | 4,79 |
| XXXV—Miscellaneous .. .. | 4,22 | 6,64 | 20,24 |
| XXXIXA—Miscellaneous adjustment between Central and Provincial Governments .. | 1,59,68 | 1,58,16 | 1,68,78 |
| XL—Extraordinary Receipts .. | 1,92 | 1,07 | 1,13 |
| Receipts in England .. .. | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Total Revenue receipts .. | 11,02,73 | 11,02,33 | 11,47,47 |

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS—*concld.*

[Figures are in thousands.]

| Heads. | Actuals. 1934-35. | Budget, 1935-36. | Actuals, 1935-36. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Transfer from Famine Relief Fund .. .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Famine Relief Fund .. .. .. | 57 | 49 | 51 |
| Deposit Account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research .. .. .. | 67 | 62 | 94 |
| Deposit Account—Indian Central Cotton Committee .. .. .. .. | 2 | .. | .. |
| Deposit Account—Development of Sericulture Industry .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | 41 |
| Deposit Account—Development of Handloom Industry .. .. .. .. | 35 | .. | 80 |
| Deposit Account of grants for the economic development and improvement of rural areas .. | .. | .. | 16,00 |
| Depreciation Reserve—Government Presses .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Advances from Provincial Loans Fund .. | 30,26<br>.. | 14,23<br>65,18 | 24,73<br>.. |
| Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt .. .. .. .. | 40 | 10,55 | 10,86 |
| Subvention from Central Road Development Account .. .. .. .. | 13,21 | 14,00 | 14,13 |
| Suspense .. .. .. .. | 8,08 | 6,80 | 7,77 |
| Recoveries of loans and advances by the Government of Bengal .. .. .. | 9,09 | 10,90 | 10,19 |
| Total Receipts on Capital Account .. | 62,65 | 1,22,77 | 86,34 |
| Total .. .. | 11,65,38 | 12,25,10 | 12,33,81 |
| Opening balance in famine Relief Fund .. | 13,51 | 12,33 | 12,42 |
| Other opening balances .. .. .. | 1 | .. | 17,70 |
| | 13,52 | 12,33 | 30,12 |
| Grand Total .. .. | 11,78,90 | 12,37,43 | 12,63,93 |

187.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE.

[Figures are in thousands.]

| Heads. | Actuals, 1934-35. | Budget, 1935-36. | Actuals, 1935-36. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 5—Land Revenue .. .. .. | 39,03 | 36,98 | 36,79 |
| 6—Excise .. .. .. | 16,60 | 18,48 | 17,88 |
| 7—Stamps .. .. .. | 4,88 | 5,24 | 4,80 |
| 8—Forest .. .. .. | 14,70 | 15,50 | 15,21 |
| 8A—Forest capital outlay charged to revenue .. | 20 | 29 | 26 |
| 9—Registration .. .. .. | 17,70 | 18,55 | 18,48 |
| 9A—Scheduled Taxes .. .. .. | 5 | 5 | 11 |
| 14—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept .. .. .. | 22,00 | 22,22 | 22,05 |
| 15—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue .. | 11,05 | 12,09 | 11,63 |
| 15(1)—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from Famine Relief grants .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 16—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works .. | 7 | .. | 6 |
| 19—Interest on ordinary debt .. .. | 15,62 | 16,74 | 15,97 |
| 20—Interest on other obligations .. .. | 2 | 5 | .. |
| 21—Reduction or avoidance of debt .. | 40 | 10,55 | 10,86 |
| 22—General Administration .. .. | 1,21,47 | 1,31,92 | 1,29,21 |
| 24—Administration of Justice .. .. | 94,57 | 99,82 | 97,07 |
| 25—Jails and Convict Settlements .. | 43,62 | 44,41 | 44,28 |
| 26—Police .. .. .. | 2,24,68 | 2,29,93 | 2,28,84 |
| 27—Ports and Pilotage .. .. | 5,66 | 4,46 | 5,09 |
| 30—Scientific Departments .. .. | 31 | 30 | 29 |
| 31—Education (Reserved) .. .. | 12,19 | 12,66 | 12,37 |
| 31—Education (Transferred) .. .. | 1,15,40 | 1,19,00 | 1,18,03 |
| 32—Medical .. .. .. | 48,21 | 50,41 | 49,19 |
| 33—Public Health .. .. .. | 36,01 | 36,94 | 35,99 |
| 34—Agriculture .. .. .. | 23,53 | 23,23 | 23,75 |
| 35—Industries .. .. .. | 11,84 | 14,60 | 14,83 |
| 37—Miscellaneous Departments .. .. | 2,14 | 2,27 | 2,13 |
| 41—Civil Works .. .. | 80,24 | 93,73 | 86,72 |
| 43—Famine Relief .. .. .. | 1,73 | 1,00 | 2,33 |
| 45—Superannuation allowance and pensions .. | 59,61 | 62,14 | 62,01 |
| 46—Stationery and Printing .. .. | 18,61 | 19,37 | 20,21 |
| 47—Miscellaneous .. .. .. | 21,47 | 24,23 | 22,62 |
| 52—Extraordinary charges .. .. | 2,50 | .. | .. |
| Expenditure in England .. .. | 41,90 | 42,88 | 42,11 |
| Total expenditure from ordinary revenue .. | 11,08,91 | 11,70,04 | 11,51,17 |

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE—*concld.*

[Figures are in thousands.]

| Heads. | Actuals, 1934-35. | Budget, 1935-36. | Actuals, 1935-36. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs | Rs. | Rs. |
| 52A—Forest capital outlay not charged to revenue .. | .. | 14 | 7 |
| 55—Construction of Irrigation and Works not charged to revenue— | | | |
| In India .. .. .. | 2,34 | 2,79 | 5,12 |
| In England .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 60—Civil Works—not charged to revenue— | | | |
| In India .. .. .. | 1,28 | 3,14 | 4,47 |
| In England .. .. .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 60B—Commuted value of pensions (not charged to revenue) .. .. .. | 4,87 | 5,50 | 12,48 |
| Famine Relief Fund .. .. .. | 1,66 | 51 | 61 |
| Deposit Account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research .. .. .. | 74 | 62 | 95 |
| Deposit Account—Cotton Committee .. | 3 | .. | .. |
| Deposit Account—Development of Sericulture Industry .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | 34 |
| Deposit Account—Development of Handloom Industry .. .. .. .. | .. | .. | 23 |
| Deposit Account of grants for the economic development and improvement of rural areas .. | .. | .. | 4,13 |
| Depreciation Reserve—Government Presses .. | 22 | 24 | 24 |
| Repayment to the Government of India of advances from Provincial Loans Fund .. | 40 | 10,55 | 10,86 |
| Subvention from Central Road Development Account .. .. .. .. | 7,17 | 13,33 | 10,30 |
| Suspense .. .. .. .. | 7,50 | 6,80 | 7,44 |
| Loans and advances by the Government of Bengal | 14,56 | 11,46 | 14,43 |
| Total expenditure on capital account .. | 40,77 | 55,08 | 71,67 |
| Total expenditure .. .. .. | 11,48,78 | 12,25,12 | 12,22,84 |
| Closing balance in Famine Relief Fund .. | 12,42 | 12,31 | 12,32 |
| Other closing balances .. .. .. | 17,70 | .. | 28,77 |
| Total closing balance .. .. .. | 30,12 | 12,31 | 41,09 |
| Grand Total .. .. .. | 11,78,90 | 12,37,43 | 12,63,93 |

## Stamps.

[Annual statistics of the Stamp Department for the year 1935-36.]

Revenue and charges.

188. The total receipts under the Court-fees and Stamp Acts amounted to Rs. 3,04,05,427 during the year, showing an increase of Rs. 10,02,681 or 3·41 per cent. on those of 1934-35. The increase occurred both under judicial and non-judicial stamps. The total charges during the year were Rs. 12,90,286 against Rs. 12,87,948 in the previous year.

Judicial stamps.

189. The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) rose to Rs. 2,14,45,242 in 1935-36 from Rs. 2,07,86,977 in 1934-35. Increase in revenue from Judicial stamps occurred in all the districts in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions except Malda. There were also increases in receipts in the districts of Jessore and Khulna in the Presidency Division and in the districts of Midnapore, Hooghly and Howrah in the Burdwan Division. But the remaining districts in these latter two divisions showed a decrease in revenue, and there was a heavy decline of Rs. 60,962 in Calcutta which was due to the fact that no big estates were dealt with during the year under review. The general increase in the mufassal districts was mainly due to the rise in the number of civil suits of higher value and in some measure to settlement operations.

Non-judicial stamps.

190. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 79,62,833 in the previous year to Rs. 82,57,372 in 1935-36. The increase in revenue was contributed by almost all districts of the province except Burdwan, Birbhum, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur and Darjeeling. The largest increase was Rs. 99,943 in Calcutta and there were also marked increases varying from Rs. 11,000 to Rs. 35,000 in all the districts in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. The general rise in revenue was attributed mainly to the enhanced rates of duty imposed on certain classes of instruments under the Indian Stamp (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1935.

Sale of stamps.

191. The number of licensed stamp vendors was 4,030 against 4,259 in the previous year, while the amount of discount allowed to them increased from Rs. 2,78,573 to Rs. 2,91,020 in 1935-36.

Deficient duty.

192. The total number of cases in which duty and penalty were levied by civil courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 on insufficiently stamped or unstamped instruments, decreased from 2,268 in 1934-35 to 1,891 in 1935-36, and the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases decreased from Rs. 21,724 to Rs. 18,081. The number of cases dealt with by Revenue courts

under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act also fell from 2,974 to 2,893, but the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases rose from Rs. 51,234 to Rs. 1,18,159 in 1935-36.

Prosecutions.

193. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 413 against 383 in the previous year. Of the 444 persons brought to trial, 416 were convicted, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 424 and 401. The fines imposed and the amount paid in rewards to informers in 1935-36 were Rs. 4,363 and Rs. 2,392, as compared with Rs. 3,955 and Rs. 3,200, respectively, in the previous year.

Working of section 19H of the Court-fees Act.

194. Of the cases of valuation of estates for issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1935-36 including those pending at the beginning of the year, complete enquiries were made into 63·6 per cent. against 66 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion of the deficit duty to the amount originally realised was 22·5 per cent. against 17 per cent. in the previous year.

## EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, 1935-36.]

Administration.

195. The auction system of settlement of country spirit shops continued during the year.

The Central Detective Department created in 1933 with a view to combat illicit distillation achieved notable success in its mission, although much remains to be done.

As in the last year the Licensing Boards and the Excise Advisory Committee continued to function satisfactorily and their recommendations regarding the number and location of shops were accepted in every case.

Revenue.

196. The total excise revenue was Rs. 1,34,87,819 against Rs. 1,37,49,639 in the preceding year, the decrease being under all heads. The fall is attributed, in part, to the failure of crops in West Bengal districts, but the prevalence of illicit distillation is probably the major cause.

The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 4 annas and 3½ pies against 4 annas and 4 pies in the previous year.

Country spirit.

197. The total number of licenses for the retail sale of country spirit was practically the same as in the previous year. There was one shop to every 55,569 inhabitants and the average area served by each shop was 80·75 square miles. Though there

was an increase of consumption by 1,726 L.P. gallons due to reduction in the retail selling prices, revenue decreased by Rs. 24,322. The decrease which occurred under the heads "duty" and "distillery fees" is reported to be due to reduction in the rate of duty.

198. Licenses for the retail vend of tari continued to be settled under the auction system. The number of retail licenses fell from 464 to 459. Revenue from Tari was Rs. 8,35,106 against Rs. 7,80,344 in the preceding year. Ninety-six per cent. of this Tari revenue was derived from Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. Tari.

199. Number of licenses issued during the year increased from 63,481 to 63,526, but the revenue fell from Rs. 9,53,015 to Rs. 8,23,337. A fixed fee system of settling pachwai shops was in force in Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly, Nadia and Murshidabad districts and partially in the Midnapore district. The system of control over the manufacture and sale of pachwai in licensed premises introduced in 1919 continued in force. In addition to the ordinary home brew licenses special permits were granted to applicants for home-brewing of pachwai on special occasions. Licenses were also granted to Chinese families in Calcutta for the home-brew of "Wanchu" (a fermented liquor prepared from rice) on ceremonial occasions. Pachwai.

200. The total revenue under the head foreign liquor was Rs. 15·37 lakhs compared with Rs. 16·16 lakhs during the previous year. Import of foreign liquors into Bengal from other provinces by private consumers was practically nil. Foreign liquor.

The improvement in the imports of potable liquors noted last year continued during the year and owing to the cheapness of spirit manufactured and denatured locally the import of Java spirits declined further during the year under report. No beer was brewed in the presidency during the year.

The number of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wines was 247 against 225 and revenue from license fees Rs. 9,900 against Rs. 9,700 in the preceding year. A new bonded laboratory of Messrs. Bengal Immunity Co., Ltd., was opened during the year which, along with eight existing bonded laboratories in Calcutta and one in Konnagur, continued to manufacture tinctures and medicinal preparations during the year under report. These laboratories issued 62,734·6 L.P. gallons of rectified spirit contained in tinctures and medicinal preparations against 71,582·9 L.P. gallons during the previous year. Revenue fell from Rs. 3·58 lakhs to Rs. 3·15 lakhs. As noticed in connection with

last year's report, the laboratories maintained their reputation and the medicinal preparations manufactured therein are replacing to a considerable extent articles formerly imported from abroad.

**Ganja.**

201. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of ganja was 1,242 against 1,243 during the preceding year. The area cultivated was further reduced from 870 bighas to 716 bighas. The total quantity of ganja consumed fell from 835 maunds 19 seers to 802 maunds 4 seers. This is attributed to economic distress on account of trade depression and to the low prices of agricultural products. The revenue fell from Rs. 25,86,698 to Rs. 25,46,561. It is satisfactory to note that co-operation between licensed cultivators and the excise patrol party to prevent smuggling is improving.

**Bhang.**

202. The total number of retail licenses for the sale of bhang and the total number of druggists permits were 366 and 661 against 350 and 640, respectively, in the previous year. Improvement in consumption was only nominal. The total revenue increased by Rs. 13,557.

**Charas.**

203. Charas is procured from Central Asia through the medium of licensed contractors in the Punjab. The total consumption of charas in the Presidency fell by 3 maunds 4 seers. This has been attributed mainly to illicit sale of contraband charas.

**Opium.**

204. Opium is obtained from Government Opium Factory at Ghazipur in the United Provinces. A system of restricted supply of opium according to local requirements as fixed by the Collectors of the districts, was in force in most of the districts. Consumption fell by 9 maunds and 12 seers and revenue by Rs. 43,146. As reported during the last year the number of opium smokers is gradually on the decline.

**Excise offences.**

205. Out of 13,538 persons prosecuted for various excise offences 11,569 were convicted.

**Temperance movement.**

206. Temperance work was carried on in the districts of Rajshahi, Malda and Darjeeling. In the two former districts though there was no organized temperance campaign, the efforts of the "Bhagat" movement among the aboriginals in Rajshahi, and the influence of the Special Officer among the Sonthals in Malda, have resulted in some reduction in the drink habit among those people. The educated hillmen of Darjeeling are abstaining more and more from indulgence in liquor, but among the uneducated classes no appreciable change in the habit was noticed. Such results as have been obtained are due to the work of Christian Missions and the Hillmen's Association.

## Road and Public Works cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration for the year 1935-36.]

Rate.

207. The road and public works cesses continued to be levied during the year under report at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and immovable properties in all the districts except Khulna and Pabna. The cesses were levied at 10½ pies in the rupee in Khulna and 9 pies in Pabna. The Chittagong Hill Tracts are exempt from the operation of the Cess Act. The valuation or gross rental on which cesses were assessed amounted to Rs. 16,98,58,437 against the current land revenue demand of Rs. 3,12,00,557. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 18·36 per cent.

Demands and collections.

208. The current demand shows a net increase of Rs. 95,100. This was chiefly due to the restoration of the rate of cess to the maximum of one anna in the district of Bogra and to increase in the cess demand from collieries in the district of Burdwan and to the increase of demand in the district of Birbhum on account of the general revaluation. The percentage of total collections on current demand of all classes of estates was 105·15 against 106·61 in the preceding year. The total outstanding balance excluding Part III estates fell to Rs. 46,14,716 from Rs. 53,53,908 in the preceding year. The percentage of outstanding balance on total demand also fell from 35·94 in the previous year to 32·6. The percentage of total collection on the current demand exceeded the standard of 100 per cent. in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore, Howrah, Nadia, Khulna, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Tippera, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Pabna and Darjeeling. In the remaining districts it varied from 99·87 to 86·9.

Working of the certificate procedure.

209. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of cesses was 39,763 against 47,814 in the preceding year. Including cases pending from the previous year the total number of cases for disposal was 77,787. Of these 46,768 cases were disposed of and 31,019 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Valuation and re-valuation.

210. The general revaluation operation in the district of Chittagong was brought to a close during the year under report. The revaluation of 183 estates including separate accounts was completed during the year. Revaluation of four other estates under section 37 was also made. In Rajshahi three estates and in Malda thirty-one resumed estates were valued under section 37 of the Act. One tea estate in Jalpaiguri and two rent-free tenures in Rangpur were also valued. As an experimental measure revaluation of twenty-eight estates in Darjeeling was taken up, of which twenty-three estates were completed.

# CHAPTER VI.

## Legislative Council.

Acts passed.

211. Twenty-four Acts, as detailed below, were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1935-36:—

(*i*) The Bengal Electricity Duty Act, 1935 (Bengal Act X of 1935), to provide for the levy of a surcharge of 6 pies per unit of energy on electricity used for the purpose of lights and fans.

(*ii*) The Court-fees (Bengal Second Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XI of 1935), to increase the court-fees payable first on probate of a will or Letters of Administration with or without a will annexed, and secondly on the certificate under Part X of the Indian Succession Act, when the amount or value of the property covered by the probate or Letters of Administration or the value of the debt or security exceeds two and one-half lakhs.

(*iii*) The Indian Stamp (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XII of 1935), to produce additional revenue by increasing the rate of certain classes of stamp duties.

(*iv*) The Bengal Amusements Tax (Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XIII of 1935), to produce additional revenue by the imposition of a tax on tickets of more than three annas.

(*v*) The Bengal Tobacco (Sales Licensing) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XIV of 1935), to produce additional revenue by the levy of fees for licenses to sell tobacco in various forms.

(*vi*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XV of 1935), to empower the Corporation of Calcutta to take steps to provide an adequate supply of filtered water in *bustee* areas.

(*vii*) The Bengal Development Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XVI of 1935), to enable Government to assess a levy on agricultural lands improved by works executed by Government.

(*viii*) The Bengal Land Revenue (Interest) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XVII of 1935), to declare in unambiguous terms the liability of zamindars to pay interest on arrears of land revenue and to lay down a maximum rate of interest chargeable on such arrears.

(*ix*) The Bengal Public Security (Extending) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XVIII of 1935), to extend the period of the parent Act which was due to expire with the expiry of the calendar year 1935.

(*x*) The Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XIX of 1935), to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of selected Munsifs and Subordinate Judges.

(*xi*) The Bengal Village Self-Government (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act XX of 1935), validating the elections and appointments made before the commencement of the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1935.

(*xii*) The Court-fees (Bengal Third Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act I of 1936), to rectify an error in section 6 of the Court-fees (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1935, so far as registration of plaints or memorandum of appeal is concerned.

(*xiii*) The Calcutta Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act II of 1936), restoring to persons paying tax on carriages to the Corporation of Calcutta the franchise that was taken away by the passing of the Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1932.

(*xiv*) The Bengal Land Registration (Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act III of 1936), to discontinue the issue of notices to proprietors before alterations are made in accordance with a record-of-rights finally published in the general register of revenue-paying lands or in the mauzawar register.

(*xv*) The Bengal Wakf (Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act IV of 1936), to decide any dispute whether a particular property is wakf, or whether a wakf is wakf-al-aulad.

(*xvi*) The Howrah Bridge (Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act V of 1936), amending the parent Act, so as to clear certain ambiguities; to empower the local Government to levy a tax on the annual rateable value of holdings within the Garden Reach Municipality and on season

tickets held by passengers travelling by the ferry service, to exempt the Howrah Bridge from municipal taxation in certain circumstances, and to make certain alterations in the Act in conformance with the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923, as extended to the Howrah Municipality.

(*xvii*) The Bengal Court of Wards (Amendment) Act, 1935 (Bengal Act VI of 1936), to strengthen the hands of the Court against unsecured creditors and to give the Court of Wards better facilities for guarding the interest not only of the wards themselves but also of all the creditors as opposed to those few creditors who have taken action in the Civil Courts.

(*xviii*) The Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, 1935 (Bengal Act VII of 1936), to save agricultural debtors from ruin by providing for the establishment of debt conciliation boards.

(*xix*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1936 (Bengal Act VIII of 1936), enfranchising owners of motor vehicles in respect of elections held under the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923.

(*xx*) The Bengal Alluvion and Diluvion (Amendment) Act, 1936 (Bengal Act IX of 1936), for assessment of land revenue in respect of accretions to revenue-free estates under Act IX of 1847.

(*xxi*) The Bengal Whipping Act, 1936 (Bengal Act X of 1936), providing for whipping as an additional punishment for certain offences against women.

(*xxii*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1936 (Bengal Act XI of 1936), removing certain anomalies in the parent Act and prohibiting prostitution within fairs or *mêlas* in municipal areas.

(*xxiii*) The Calcutta Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, 1936 (Bengal Act XII of 1936), restoring the *status quo* in regard to the payment of license fees to the Corporation by professional men paying income-tax. (A non-official measure.)

(*xxiv*) The Bengal Water Hyacinth Act, 1936 (Bengal Act XIII of 1936), to provide means for preventing the spread of water hyacinth pest and for causing its destruction.

212. The Government Bills which were introduced and referred to Select Committees remained pending at the close of the year under review:— Pending Government Bills.

(*i*) The Bengal Non-Agricultural Lands Assessment Bill, 1936, to deal with the adequate assessment of land revenue or rent of certain lands not used for agricultural purposes. This has been necessitated by the fact that settlement of fair rent of non-agricultural lands cannot be done under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885.

(*ii*) The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1936, to provide for the abolition of local boards formed under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885.

213. The following four non-official members' Bills were pending at the close of the year:— Pending Bills of non-official members.

(*i*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Mr. N. K. Basu was introduced and referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee met on the 20th March 1936, and recommended that legislation on the lines proposed in the Bill be not proceeded with for the present. The Bill aims at amending section 51 of the parent Act so as to ensure security of tenure of the principal officers of the Calcutta Corporation.

(*ii*) The Bengal Patni Taluks Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1936, by Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur, of Nashipur, was introduced and referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee reported on the 23rd March 1936. The Bill deals with the investment of money in deposit with the Collector pending the decision by the Civil Court for the reversal of sale of a patni tenure.

(*iii*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1936, by Babu Jitendralal Banerjee was introduced only. The Bill proposes the registration under the Bengal Medical Act, 1914, of certain unrecognised medical practitioners.

(*iv*) The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1936, by Mr. Sarat Kumar Roy, was only introduced. The Bill deals mainly with the presumption as to the fixity of rent for land held since the Permanent Settlement.

214. The following twenty-six non-official members' Bills were brought before the Council, but failing to secure general support were disposed of at various stages. Other non-official Bills.

Eight were merely introduced and were not proceeded with by the members who had sponsored them:—

(*i*) The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, to increase the representation of school teachers' union boards and union committees on the District School Board.

(*ii*) The Bengal Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Maulvi Abul Kasem, to withdraw the exemption of wakfs created by the Borah community.

(*iii*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Maulvi Abul Kasem, to enfranchise carters.

(*iv*) The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury to empower union benches to extend the time for payment of fines and to grant bail pending payment, and to empower union courts to try small rent suits.

(*v*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Maulvi Abul Kasem, proposing a separate electorate.

(*vi*) The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Rai Satish Chandra Mukherjee Bahadur to effect certain changes rendered necessary by case law and experience.

(*vii*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, analogous to item (*iii*) of paragraph 213.

(*viii*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Khan Bahadur Hashem Ali Khan analogous to item (*iii*) of paragraph 213.

In the case of four others, motions to take them into consideration were rejected:—

(*ix*) The Estates Partition (Second Amendment), Bill, 1935, by Rai Keshab Chandra Banerjee Bahadur, to empower the Collector to make an equitable partition notwithstanding any decree which may cause difficulty and inconvenience to a co-sharer.

(*x*) The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Mr. P. Banerji, to secure the partition of occupancy holdings and to remove the hardships of co-sharer tenants, by fixing their respective liabilities.

(*xi*) The Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Rai Jogesh Chandra Sen Bahadur, extending the term of a District Board from 4 to 5 years.

(*xii*) The Bengal Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Maulvi Abdul Hakim, dealing with the method of killing swine.

Nine were disposed of when motions to refer them to Select Committees were defeated:—

(*xiii*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment No. II) Bill, 1935, by Mr. P. Banerji, to secure seats for labour on the Calcutta Corporation.

(*xiv*) The Bengal Ferries (Amendment) Bill, 1934, by Maulvi Abdul Hakim, to deal with the lease of ferries.

(*xv*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Babu Jitendralal Banerjee, analogous to item (*iii*) of paragraph 213.

(*xvi*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Khan Bahadur Hashem Ali Khan.

(*xvii*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1935 by Mr. Mukunda Behari Mullick.

(*xviii*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai.

(*xix*) The Bengal Race Course Betting Bill, 1935, by Mr. P. Banerji, proposed that licenses should be taken out by proprietors of race-courses for horses or dogs.

(*xx*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai to add in section 477 of the parent Act additional clauses authorising the Corporation to exercise some special powers for the attainment of some of the objects laid down in other sections of the Act.

(*xxi*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Mr. Mukunda Behari Mullick, analogous to item (*iii*) of paragraph 213.

The remaining five were withdrawn upon the recommendations of the Select Committees to which they had been referred:—

(*xxii*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1934, by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur, to remove certain defects noticed in the main Act.

(*xxiii*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur, suggesting certain amendments in the main Act.

(*xxiv*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, to enfranchise certain persons having certain educational qualifications for election under the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923.

(*xxv*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Mr. P. Banerji, dealing mainly with the payment of consolidated rate by the owner and occupier and also with the easier method of getting documents registered.

(*xxvi*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935, by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur, to remove certain defects found in the parent Act.

# CHAPTER VII.

## Local Self-Government.

### Calcutta Corporation.

[Summary of General Administration Report for 1935-36.]

215. Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq and Mr. S. K. Roy Chowdhury were elected Mayor and Deputy-Mayor, respectively, for the year under review. **Personnel.**

216. The Revenue Account of the Corporation opened with a balance of Rs. 1,05,53,852. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,40,76,813 and the payments to Rs. 2,45,15,787. Adjusting the assets and liabilities of the previous year and taking into account those of the year under report, the income amounted to Rs. 2,37,79,993 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,49,64,794. On the basis of actual receipts and payments there was a balance of Rs. 1,01,14,878, of which Rs. 77,00,964 was in cash and securities. The balance consisted of stores-in-stock Rs. 7,79,879 and advances Rs. 16,34,035. The latter included Rs. 4,08,594 being temporary advance from revenue for financing the schemes for the extension of water-supply, the drainage scheme and other capital works, and Rs. 6,36,390 for repayment of 4 per cent. Calcutta Municipal Debenture Loan of 1905-1906, dated the 1st January 1906, for Rs. 15 lakhs. **Finance.**

During the year under report, the 4 per cent. Calcutta Municipal Debenture Loan of 1905-1906, dated the 1st January 1906, for Rs. 15 lakhs was repaid on 1st January 1936, besides a sum of Rs. 5,586-7-1 repaid to Government on account of the loan borrowed by the now defunct Maniktolla Municipality.

In February 1935 a 3½ per cent. Debenture Loan for Rs. 15,56,800 was raised by calling tenders for repayment of 4 per cent. Calcutta Municipal Debenture Loan of 1904-1905, dated the 1st December 1904, for Rs. 30 lakhs, the balance being available in the Sinking Fund established under section 108 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923. The loan was raised at a discount, the nett realisation being Rs. 15,43,219-14. A further loan of Rs. 13,600 was therefore raised to cover the discount and the debentures were issued at par to and in the name of the Corporation.

Similarly for repayment of the 4 per cent Loan of 1905-1906, dated the 1st January 1906, for Rs. 15 lakhs, a 3 per cent. Debenture Loan of Rs. 7,78,400 was raised in January 1936 at a discount, the nett realisation being Rs. 7,64,833-8. An application was submitted in March 1936 to Government for sanction to the raising of a further loan of Rs. 13,600 to cover the discount and to the reservation of the entire loan of Rs. 13,600 for issue at par to and in the name of the Corporation. Sanction of the additional loan was not received within the year.

In May 1935, the Government of India sanctioned for capital works the raising by the Corporation of a Debenture Loan of Rs. 33,91,000 having a currency of 30 years and at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum. On 17th July 1935, the local Government sanctioned the reservation of Rs. 13,91,000 of the loan for issue to the Corporation itself at par. The Finance Committee on the 25th July 1935 fixed the rate of interest of the loan at 3½ per cent. and the loan was raised through public subscription.

The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year stood at Rs. 8,07,86,792 including Rs. 74,59,792 on account of the Sterling Debenture Loan of £500,000. Against this indebtedness, there was an aggregate accumulation of Rs. 2,12,80,624 in the sinking funds. The total payment made on account of loan charges (viz., interest and contribution to sinking funds) during the year 1935-36 amounted to Rs. 55,87,855.

**Assessment Department.**

217. On the 31st March 1936, the assessed annual valuation of the city stood at Rs. 10,35,19,236 as against the corresponding figure of Rs. 10,43,38,798 (excluding Rs. 10,98,357, the annual valuation of Ward No. 26, which has been separated from this Corporation with effect from the 1st of April 1935) of the previous year. It thus resulted in a net decrease of Rs. 8,19,562 in the annual valuation during the year, as against the net increase of Rs. 2,64,084 of the previous year. The above decrease was not only due to revaluation of properties made during the year for which the revised assessments became operative, but also included those cases in respect of which objections pending during the previous years were disposed of in the course of the year under report. The decrease of Rs. 8,19,562 was made of an increase of Rs. 5,61,537 from intermediate assessments and a decrease of Rs. 13,81,099 from periodical revaluation.

**Chief Valuer's and Surveyor's Department**

218. Plans and estimates for 66 projects involving an area of 50¼ bighas of land at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 lakhs were prepared during the year 1935-36. Under the Land-Acquisition Act and section 304 of the Calcutta Municipal Act a little over

5⅓ bighas of land were acquired at a total cost of Rs. 5,57,591-12. Small plots altogether measuring 5½ cottas were received from sundry persons as free gift and their value was Rs. 17,622.

Collection Department.

219. The gross demand of consolidated rate for the year was Rs. 2,24,28,963. This includes the arrears of the previous year pending with the Collector and the Assessor. Eliminating the *amount remitted on account of vacancies*, the net demand stood at Rs. 2,15,29,393 as against Rs. 2,14,35,073 of the previous year. The total amount collected was Rs. 1,84,62,794. Bills amounting to Rs. 11,10,302 were pending with the Assessor at the close of the year and bills aggregating Rs. 4,06,597 were transferred to the Law Department, the former for amendment and the latter for recovery by suit. The net unrealised balance pending with the Collector at the close of the year was Rs. 15,29,267 as against Rs. 16,40,951 at the end of the previous year. The percentage of collection calculated on the gross current demand was 86;91 against 85;27 and 86:81 in the two preceding years and that on the net demand was 89:48. The corresponding percentage in the two previous years being 87;43 and 89:49 respectively. The net demand of miscellaneous dues was Rs. 16,13,183. The collection amounted to Rs. 13,88,939. Bills amounting to Rs. 3,965 were transferred to the Law Department for recovery by suit leaving a net balance of Rs. 1,99,440 pending with the Collector at the end of the year as against Rs. 2,14,070 outstanding at the end of the previous year. This balance includes (*a*) Rs. 1,12,931 payable by the Government, Suburban Municipalities, Calcutta Improvement Trust and other Public Bodies, and (*b*) Rs. 3,008 for advertisement in the Calcutta Municipal Gazette, and (*c*) Rs. 50,523 under objection and awaiting final orders.

License Department.

220. The total receipts for the year 1935-36 on account of license taxes amounted to Rs. 15,14,270 including Rs. 12,27,281 on account of tax on trades and professions and under section 390 and 428, Rs. 63,252 as tax on carriages and animals, and Rs. 1,11,891 as taxes under sections 179, 386, 405, 396 and 413. Rs. 1,09,726 were collected as cart registration fees and Rs. 2,120 on account of fees, penalties and miscellaneous receipts. The number of licenses issued under section 175 during the year 1935-36 was 63,697. The total collections under the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act amounted to Rs. 1,46,430.

Lighting Department.

221. The efficiency of street lighting was maintained and further progress was made during the year with the scheme for the replacement of oil lamps by gas and electric lamps. Two hundred and two additional gas lamps and 431 electric lamps

were installed during the year. The total number of electric lamps at the end of the year was 4,136. No further progress could be made in the erection of high power electric lamps owing to paucity of funds. There were 183 cases of damage to public gas lamps during the year and the cost of damage was recovered in 128 cases.

**Water-supply.**

222. The average daily quantity of filtered water supplied during the year amounted to 67·3 million gallons and that of unfiltered water to 57·1 million gallons making a total of 124·4 million gallons per day, as compared with 63·9 million gallons of filtered water and 53·9 million gallons of unfiltered water or a total of 117·8 million gallons daily during the previous year.

The average consumption of filtered water per head per day in Calcutta upon a population of 1,196,668 (as per census of 1931) amounts to 55·6 gallons and for Calcutta, together with the neighbouring municipalities of Dum Dum, Tollygunge and South Suburban Municipalities, upon a population of 1,289,161, to 52 gallons, compared with 53·4 and 49·6 gallons in the previous year.

The average consumption of unfiltered water per head per day upon a population of 998,678 amounts to about 57·2 gallons as compared with 54 gallons in the previous year.

**Distribution system : Filtered water.**

223. The old MacCabe Main was connected to zone IV main and the new zone III main was connected to the lower section of MacCabe Main at the junction of Dharamtolla Street and Lower Circular Road. The work was of an intricate nature, but was very quickly executed. It has effected a better distribution of filtered water.

The 42-inch Garden Reach Main which was completed by the end of the previous year was put into commission on the 3rd September 1935 after the main had been thoroughly flushed out and the water declared safe, and all supplies by lorries and water boats to Garden Reach were stopped with effect from that date. The general pressure of filtered water in the western portion of District IV across the Tolly's Nullah was also improved substantially with effect from the 6th September 1935 after the 42-inch main was put into commission. An estimate amounting to Rs. 73,000 for the improvement of water supply in Ward 23 was also sanctioned by the Corporation during the year and necessary funds have been provided in the next year's budget. When the scheme is finished, there will be material improvement in pressure in that ward. With a view to improve the general pressure of filtered water in the Beliaghatta area, a 12-inch main has been laid in Beliaghatta Main Road except for 2 links, viz.,

one in Beliaghatta Station Yard of the Eastern Bengal Railway and the other across the Canal Bridge. It is hoped that these portions will be completed in the course of the next few months. For the improvement of water supply in Ward 27, estimates have been prepared and discussed with the Improvement Trust. These estimates will shortly be placed before the Corporation through the Committee. In the meantime a cross connection is being effected at the junction of Hazra Road and Russa Road (the work is already in hand) between the 33-inch zone main in Hazra Road and a 27-inch steel main laid by the Calcutta Improvement Trust in Russa Road South. It is hoped that when this work is done, there will be an appreciable improvement in pressure in Ward 27. An estimate for laying a 15-inch main through Middle Road for the improvement of the filtered water supply in Ward 18 has also been prepared and will soon be placed before the Corporation through the Committee.

**Unfiltered water.**

224. The new main laid under the Moore Scheme from Watgunge Pumping Station up to the crossing of Hazra Road and Russa Road was connected up at the junction of Hazra Road and Russa Road on 4th December 1935. There has been a very great improvement in the pressure of unfiltered water, particularly on the south side of Tolly's Nullah ever since. Besides, the consumption of electricity in Watgunge Pumping Station has been reduced by at least 10 per cent.

**Palta Pumping Station.**

225. There was considerable public dissatisfaction on account of the shortage of filtered water supply in the city during June and July last year. A Committee was constituted to enquire into the question of the quality and quantity of water supplied in Calcutta and this Committee held 15 or 16 meetings and have nearly finished their labours. The final report of the Committee will be placed before the Corporation as soon as possible.

**Tallah Pumping Station.**

226. Two very essential works were carried out at Tallah between the 16th January 1936 and 3rd February 1936, viz.: (1) repairing suction culvert, and (2) fixing reflux valves on the delivery pipes. The entire new station had to be shut down during the period and naturally the supply was more or less affected in the outlying parts of Calcutta. The works have been carried out efficiently.

**Law suits.**

227. The Corporation were successful in their appeal against the judgment of the original court in the very important case against the Port Commissioners for damages to the motors at Mullickghat Pumping Station. It is, however, understood that the Port Commissioners intend to file an appeal to the Privy Council against the above judgment.

Drainage; Internal drainage.

228. During the year under review the construction of the Town High Level Sewer under the Main Drainage Extension Scheme, which was taken in hand during the year 1932-33 was completed. Progress was made with the construction of pumping station and installation of pumps in Carmichael Medical College compound in Belgachia including the laying of a cast iron raising main and S. W. pipe sewers to take sewage on to the brick sewer in Raja Dinendra Street on the outside of the canal, schemes designed to improve the drainage of Ward 30 in Cossipore-Chitpur. A settlement of all outstanding questions concerning the location of the pumping station and outfall has been arrived at with the Government and revised estimate amounting to Rs. 1,20,000 was prepared. The location of the pumping station was decided upon at the site near the junction of the Bagjola Khal and the Kristopore canal. The original sanctioned estimate amounted to Rs. 80,000. The revised estimate amounting to Rs. 1,20,000 was necessitated by the suggestion of Government for the location of the pumping station at a point further down and for provision of an open cut channel to take the sullage from Jessore Road to the pumping station to be situated on the Kristopore canal. The work will shortly be taken in hand. A proposal for the discharge of the storm water of Maniktolla area into the New Cut canal has met with the approval of the Government on the condition that the Corporation bears half the cost of construction of a flushing dam. The Corporation has accepted this proposal. A Diesel Oil Engine of Horizontal Type of 6;75 B.H.P. along with a centrifugal pump of 1,100 gallon capacity per minute was erected at the Pagladanga Pumping Station. At the Ballygunge Drainage Pumping Station the old condenser was replaced by a new one. Work was also started for the installation of two Lancashire boilers at the Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station, for regrading the surface drain along Gariahat Road and connecting the same with 10 feet diameter main outfall sewer in Rash Behari Avenue, and for laying an overflow sewer in Baitakkhana area. The erection of two vertical spindle propeller pumps was completed, each having a capacity of 10,300 cubic feet per minute; the pumps were coupled with an electric motor of 3-phase, slipering induction type having a current input of 25;2 K.W. Apart from cleansing and surveying of sewers, portions of sewers, which collapsed in New Circular Road, Mistripara Lane Ahiripukur Road, Sambhu Babu Lane, Deb Lane and Galiff Street were relaid. Paucity of funds prevented the inception of certain important works in connection with the internal drainage scheme which included among other items (1) construction of the dry weather flow pumping station, extension works and completion of the storm

water pumping station at the Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station for city proper; (2) the storm water pumping station and additional high level sewer at Ballygunge for South Calcutta, and (3) the extension of the Canal West Road Intercepting Sewer from Halsibagan to Chitpore lock on the Hooghly with storm water pumping station at the latter place. Only the town high level 9-foot diameter sewer has been completed.

Outfall system.

229. Steady deterioration of the Bidyadhari caused much difficulty in maintaining the existing outfall system which was only kept running by the removal of silt from the outfall channels. Other remedial measures taken in this connection included (1) raising the embankment on the north bank of the sewage channels near Topsia to prevent the sewage from flowing back to the city, (2) removal of the water hyacinth from the outfall channels, (3) excavation of silt from a portion of the head-cut near the Ballygunge Drainage Pumping Station.

The drainage outfall system has become a matter of great anxiety. The condition of the existing channels is going rapidly from bad to worse. Outfall channels are no longer well defined channels satisfying the hydraulic conditions necessary to carry the drainage effluent from the city. Literally speaking, the outfall channels as well as the Bidyadhari river are now high level lakes protected by embankments in which the average level of sewage and storm water is three to four feet above the ground level of the adjacent lands. The Corporation sanctioned the Chief Engineer's Kulti Outfall Scheme and sent up the case to Government for sanction some time ago.

Kulti Outfall Scheme.

230. The Outfall Scheme for the City of Calcutta to the nearest live water, Kulti, was prepared and accepted by the Corporation in August 1930. The scheme was under the examination of a Government Expert Committee. After several meetings of the Expert Committee it was decided at a conference held between the Corporation and Government engineers in April 1934, that Dr. Dey's scheme would function with provision for pre-settlement of sewage and with adequate sluice capacity. According to the direction of the Committee to proceed with the preparation of working details, a large scale aerial survey of the lands between Calcutta and Kulti were carried out by the Survey Department of the Government of India on behalf of the Corporation with a view to fixing the alignment so as to avoid costly homestead lands as far as possible. The scheme has recently been sanctioned.

Bustee Department.

231. Limits of 28 bustees were defined and 78 bustees were surveyed during the year preparatory to their improvement.

Standard plans were prepared with respect to 128 bustee premises. About 12 bighas of bustee land were cleared of huts and about a mile and a half of road was opened out and improved. Seventy connected privies and two bathing platforms were constructed and 18 private streets were improved as the result of action taken by the department.

Roads.

232. The total expenditure on roads and footpaths amounted to over Rs. 9 lakhs. Out of this nearly Rs. 4 lakhs were spent for construction and improvement, and Rs. 2,80,607 on new bituminous road surfaces. A sum of Rs. 2,09,588-8-10 was spent on repairs to roads previously asphalted and Rs. 34,902-10-5 on repairs to other roads.

Conservancy.

233. The total quantity of refuse carried to the square mile at Dhappa, dumped at different low lands and burnt at the incinerator, amounted to 457,181 tons during the year 1935-36. The average quantity of refuse dealt with daily was 1,253 tons.

Building Department.

234. The total number of applications for masonry buildings, huts, sky signs and verandahs, etc., dealt with during the year 1935-36 was 11,121 against 10,459 in the previous year. Twenty-one per cent. of the applications in the case of masonry buildings and 37 per cent. in the case of huts were sanctioned. Notices numbering 1,845 were issued under rule 4(*1*) of Schedule XVIII for repair or reconstruction of old and dilapidated buildings against 1,891 in the year 1934-35. Notices under section 365 of the Act to prevent owners from attempting to re-erect unauthorised construction numbered 1,597 against 1,756 in the previous year.

Health Department.

235. The total number of births registered during the year 1935 in the city including the added areas was 25,338, or 21·1 per mille as compared with 25,717 births or 21·5 per mille in the previous year. The total number of deaths registered during the year 1935 for the whole city including the added areas was 34,093 or 28·5 per mille against 34,356 or 28·7 per mille of the preceding year. A mild epidemic of small-pox broke out during the year under report causing 1,173 deaths or ·98 per mille against 1,074 deaths or ·90 per mille of the previous year. The mortality from enteric fever was markedly lower, the number of deaths falling from 963 to 864. The deaths from influenza were also lower, the figure being 457 against 597. Deaths from kala-azar and other fevers were 149 and 2,012, respectively, against 210 and 2,185. The number of deaths from malaria was 607 against 714 in the previous year. Dysentery or diarrhœa accounted for 2,571 deaths against 3,007, and respiratory diseases for 6,658 against 7,184 of 1934. On the other hand mortality from cholera and tuberculosis rose from 1,360 and 3,053, respectively,

to 2,116 and 3,103. Cholera was epidemic in the city from February to May, but it subsided gradually in the latter part of the year. There was no death from plague during this year. Cerebro-spinal meningitis was the cause of 701 deaths during the year under report. The infant mortality rate fell from 254 per thousand registered births to 239, and the number of infantile deaths from 6,654 to 6,061. The Lady Health Visitors and Corporation midwives fully maintained their popularity, and rendered very valuable services to the poor and the middle class rate-payers of the city. The Corporation midwives delivered 6,286 cases and removed 71 difficult labour cases to the different hospitals of the city. The Lady Health Visitors, who are doctors of the sub-assistant class, personally delivered 203 cases in addition to the work done by the midwives. The number of infantile deaths among babies delivered by the Corporation staff was 126 excluding 210 still-births. The rate of infantile mortality within the first ten days of births attended by the Corporation staff was 20 per thousand, while the general infantile mortality rate within a similar period in the whole city was 73 per thousand registered births. There were only 9 maternal deaths amongst the mothers delivered by the Corporation staff.

Food inspection.

236. The total number of samples of food-stuffs taken was 10,003, of which 2,247 or 22·4 per cent. were found adulterated. Five hundred and ten out of 1,818 samples of milk, 678 out of 2,360 samples of ghee, 42 out of 513 samples of butter, 134 out of 1,043 samples of sweetmeats, 727 out of 2,175 samples of mustard oil, 5 out of 21 samples of *khoa khir*, 66 out of 387 samples of invalid foods, 3 out of 369 samples of tea, 1 out of 308 samples of flour, 13 out of 36 samples of *chana* were found adulterated.

Markets.

237. The total revenue derived from all the municipal markets during the year 1935-36 was Rs. 12,57,825. There was an increase of Rs. 4,062 over the actuals of the preceding year.

Education.

238. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation for educational purposes of all kinds amounted to Rs. 17,15,000 (subject to final adjustments) against Rs. 12,43,491 in the previous year. At the end of the year, there were 227 Corporation free primary schools with 33,038 pupils against 232 schools and 32,856 pupils in the previous year. Of the total number of pupils on the rolls, 18,564 were boys and 14,474 girls, as compared with 18,217 boys and 14,639 girls at the end of the previous year. Of the total number of schools, 3 were part-time schools held in the morning, 219 were day schools and 5 were night schools for carters and sweepers. The corresponding figures

in the previous year were 3 part-time schools (held in the morning), 225 day schools and 4 night schools. At the close of the year, there were 1,086 teachers in all Corporation free primary schools, of whom 671 were men and 415 women. Compulsory free primary education was introduced in Ward IX during 1934-35. During 1935-36, considerable progress was made in this direction. Actually 2,599 pupils, out of 3,393 boys of school-going age resident in this Ward, were in attendance at Corporation and other recognised schools.

## Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1935-36.]

Improvement schemes.

239. The principal operations of the Trust during the year continued to be in the north and south of Calcutta. In the north work continued on the extension of Central Avenue, north of Shambazar Street, and on the construction of an 84-foot road connecting Central Avenue with Shambazar, while in the south substantial progress was made towards the development of subsidiary streets to the west of Lansdowne Road Extension and north of the Lake area. In the centre of the town a cross road from the Currency Office in Dalhousie Square to Chittaranjan Avenue has been practically completed and is now coming into use as a new outlet from Dalhousie Square. The construction of suitable approach roads to the Narkeldanga Bridge was commenced and rapid progress made during the year.

Open spaces.

240. The temporary park at Entally has been remodelled and enlarged by the inclusion of land acquired on an alignment which will not be required immediately for a scheme. Another small park has been similarly provided out of land held for the approaches to the railway bridge at Ballygunge. The Dhakuria Lake, with adjoining park, continued to retain its popularity and was largely frequented. Apart from the general recreation of the public, the lake had proved an invaluable asset in the development of rowing in Calcutta. In addition to the activities of the Calcutta Rowing Club and the Lake Club, the University Rowing Club whose building on the new lake was nearing completion, made their first appearance in races during the year.

Finance.

241. Receipts and expenditure were Rs. 50·32 lakhs and Rs. 35·11 lakhs, respectively, in the Revenue Account, and Rs. 51·68 lakhs and Rs. 84·64 lakhs, respectively, in the Capital Account, exclusive of the amount of Rs. 35 lakhs raised by debenture loan during the year. Receipts from sales of land amounted to Rs. 42·68 lakhs, the highest figure on record since

the year 1919-20, but this included an exchange of land to the value of Rs. 1,50,000, which appeared on both sides of the account. A small decline appeared in receipts from the municipal contribution (Rs. 19·80 lakhs), due partly to the exclusion of Garden Reach from Calcutta and partly to a downward tendency in the annual valuation of areas under revision, while the receipts from the jute tax increased from Rs. 9·98 lakhs to Rs. 11·37 lakhs.

Bridges.

242. The Tollygunge Bridge was under construction by the Trust on behalf of Government during the year and at the request of Government the Trust were engaged on the preparation of plans and estimates for the reconstruction of the Barrackpore Bridge.

## Municipalities.

General.

243. With the establishment of a new municipality at Garden Reach in the district of the 24-Parganas on the 1st April 1935, after its separation from the Corporation of Calcutta, the total number of municipalities in the province (excluding the Calcutta Corporation) rose from 117 to 118. This event is the main cause of the noticeable rise in the number of rate-payers and of meetings held, and in the figures for income and expenditure. The adjustment of the common boundary between the Champdany and Bhadreswar Municipalities was finally notified during the year under report, while preliminary notifications were issued regarding the revision of the boundaries of the Bansberia and Burdwan Municipalities. The revision of boundaries of the municipalities in the district of the 24-Parganas affected by the survey and settlement operations was almost completed. There were no important changes in the boundaries of any other municipalities during the year under report, but in a few cases proposals for revision of the boundaries were still under the consideration of Government when the year closed.

The Bengal Municipal Act of 1884 remained in force in the two hill municipalities of Darjeeling and Kurseong. The new Act of 1932 was, however, brought into operation with effect from the 1st April 1936.

Elections.

244. The first general elections under the provisions of the Bengal Municipal Act of 1932 were held in Pirojpur and Chittagong during the year under report. At Pirojpur, the rate-payers showed a keen desire to exercise the municipal franchise and in those wards where there was a contest a large proportion of the voters attended the polls. In Chittagong, the election was contested in all the wards. A civil suit was instituted with regard to

the election in a particular ward and the election having been set aside by the Court, a fresh election was held. A general election was held at Debhatta and partial elections to complete the general election held in 1933-34 took place in Budge Budge.

Bye-elections were also held in a number of municipalities and a fair measure of interest was taken by the rate-payers in the election proceedings.

Meetings.

245. The total number of meetings held during the year was 3,124 against 2,975 in the previous year. Of these, 76 meetings proved abortive for want of a quorum and 274 were adjourned as compared with 102 and 287, respectively, in the preceding year. The Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality held the largest number of meetings, viz., 73, of which 32 were adjourned, and it was closely followed by Bhola with 72 meetings. Among other municipalities which held a large number of meetings were Rajshahi (58), Garden Reach (53), Nabadwip (50), Budge-Budge (47), Howrah (42) and Burdwan (38). On the other hand at Kanchrapara, Netrokona and Kurseong meetings failed to take place at least once in every month as required under the law. The attendance of Commissioners at meetings was not very satisfactory. In 3 municipalities the average attendance was over 80 per cent. and in 21 others over 70 per cent. The percentage fell below 50 per cent. in 11 municipalities as compared with 13 in the preceding year. The average attendance was highest in Baduria at 85·08 per cent. and lowest in Bogra at 33 per cent.

Rate-payers.

246. The total number of rate-payers increased from 343,603 to 360,386 and the percentage of rate-payers to the total population also rose from 14·9 to 15·3. The percentage varied from 49·98 in Baraset (24-Parganas) to 3·2 in Bhatpara, a factory town with a large labour population. In Darjeeling and Kurseong the percentages were 7·54 and 6·4, respectively. Other towns in which rates were paid by less than one-tenth of the population were Mymensingh (7·7), Barisal (9·8), Jalpaiguri (9·2), and 10 mill municipalities of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions.

Rates and taxes.

247. The total receipts from municipal rates and taxes rose from Rs. 74,29,000 to Rs. 76,60,000. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 3-4 against Rs. 3-3-9 of the preceding year. As usual, the incidence of taxation was highest in the hill municipalities of Darjeeling (Rs. 11-7-6) and Kurseong (Rs. 8-12-7). Among the plains municipalities, Howrah, also as usual, headed the list with an average incidence of Rs. 7-2-1 and was followed by Dum Dum (Rs. 6-14-11), Tollyganj (Rs. 5-8-4) and Utterpara (Rs. 5-1-5). In twelve other municipalities, viz., Burdwan, Hooghly-Chinsura, Bally, Baranagar, South Dum Dum,

Krishnagar, Berhampore, Jessore, Dacca, Narayanganj, Mymensingh and Jalpaiguri, the ratio was above Rs. 4 per head. In 15 municipalities, on the other hand, the incidence was between Re. 1 and 8 annas, while it was below 8 annas in five municipalities, viz., Ramjibanpur (Rs. 0-7-9), Sonamukhi (Rs. 0-7-1), Dhulian (Rs. 0-7-0), Baduria (Rs. 0-6-11), and Debhatta (Rs. 0-5-9). General or partial revision of assessment took place in a large number of municipalities. General revision produced marked increases in the demand at Bhatpara (Rs. 43,403), Naihati (Rs. 24,672), Kamarhati (Rs. 10,698), North Barrackpore (Rs. 10,495), Berhampore (Rs. 9,105), Khulna (Rs. 8,886), Dinajpur (Rs. 6,092), Jiaganj-Azimganj (Rs. 6,108), and Burdwan (Rs. 5,992). The tax on persons was replaced by a rate on holdings in accordance with the provisions of the new Municipal Act at Sonamukhi (Bankura) and produced an actual net increase of Rs. 794 only, while Rishra-Konnagore sustained a loss of Rs. 622 as a result of the introduction of general conservancy rate in place of a sliding scale of latrine fees. Partial revision of assessment and imposition of conservancy rate accounted for an increase of Rs. 8,118 at Baranagar. Uttarpara added Rs. 7,344 to its income under the head "Conservancy rate" but there was a loss of income amounting to Rs. 7,137 under "holding rate" in that municipality.

Collection.

248. The total collection of municipal rates for the province as a whole increased from about Rs. 70¾ lakhs to Rs. 73·38 lakhs, but the percentage of collection on the current demand fell from 93·5 to 91·3. The total collections in the Burdwan Division fell from Rs. 29·29 lakhs to Rs. 28·14 lakhs and the percentage of total collection on current demand also fell from 90·9 to 86·4, the lowest ratio being returned by Vishnupur (10·4). This general decrease is attributed partly to economic depression, but mainly to laxity in supervision over the work of the collection staff. The total collections exceeded the current demand at Khirpai (111·7 per cent.) and Rishra-Konnagar (101·04 per cent.). Bhadreswar and Champdany, as in the previous year, collected practically the whole of their demand after granting small remissions. In the Presidency Division, collections appreciably increased in Bhatpara, South Suburban and Tollyganj. For the eleventh time in succession Garulia opened and closed the year with no outstanding balance, and again collected the whole of the current demand without granting any remission. Kanchrapara came next with a collection of 98·2 per cent. of the total demand. No other municipality in the division was able to collect 95 per cent. of the total demand and only three other municipalities, viz., Titagarh, Berhampore and Chakdah collected more than 90 per cent., the lowest ratio, viz., 25·5 per cent. being returned by Rajpur where good collections

were impossible owing to party-factions which brought the administration of the municipality to a standstill. The Collection Department of the South Suburban Municipality was superseded and placed in charge of the Sadar Subdivisional Officer, 24-Parganas, for nearly the whole of the year under review and the outstanding balances were reduced by about Rs. 24,000. In the Dacca Division, collections increased by about Rs. 42,000 and 9 municipalities collected over hundred per cent. of their current demands. In the Chittagong Division, there was a small increase of about Rs. 1,000 only, while in the Rajshahi Division collections actually fell by about Rs. 15,000. The percentage of collection improved considerably in Comilla (108·1) and Brahmanbaria (108·6) and the small municipality of Old Malda collected as much as 106·2 per cent. of its current demand. The amount of total remissions increased from about Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 6·24 lakhs and represented 7·8 per cent. of the current demand, as compared with 7·9 per cent. in the preceding years. Among the municipalities which granted considerable remissions were Howrah (Rs. 1,58,061), Dacca (Rs. 45,556), Asansol (Rs. 26,701), Bankura (Rs. 24,895), South Suburban (Rs. 22,559), Serampore (Rs. 21,383), Darjeeling (Rs. 18,763), and Chittagong (Rs. 17,991). Bankura remitted as much as 34·4 per cent. of its current demand, while Tangail and Rajbari remitted 32·1 per cent. and 25·8 per cent., respectively. The total balances outstanding at the close of the year again rose from Rs. 29·42 lakhs to Rs. 30·20 lakhs, of which Howrah alone was responsible for Rs. 12·22 lakhs. Other municipalities with large outstanding balances were Mymensingh (Rs. 1,11,573), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 99,682), Dacca (Rs. 85,738), Tollyganj (Rs. 82,667), Bankura (Rs. 60,800), Barisal (Rs. 60,603), Burdwan (Rs. 58,296), Asansol (Rs. 54,786), Comilla (Rs. 52,063) and Darjeeling (Rs. 51,983).

Income and expenditure.

249. The total receipts including opening balances rose from Rs. 113·9 lakhs to Rs. 127·5 lakhs; and the total disbursements also rose from Rs. 99·6 lakhs to Rs. 108·1 lakhs. The total balance at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 19·47 lakhs against Rs. 14·39 lakhs in the preceding year. The new municipality of Garden Reach had the largest closing balance, viz., Rs. 2,52,000, and was closely followed by Darjeeling with a balance of Rs. 2,47,172. Other municipalities with large closing balances were Dacca (Rs. 2,07,265), Howrah (Rs. 1,98,147), Baranagar (Rs. 66,167), Bhatpara (Rs. 53,042) and Budge-Budge (Rs. 48,397). Several municipalities, on the other hand, failed to keep a minimum working balance sufficient to cover two months' expenses as required under the rules and in many cases the balances left were quite insufficient to meet the outstanding

liabilities. The worst case in this respect was that of Midnapore with a closing balance of Rs. 5,071 against outstanding liabilities amounting to Rs. 59,674, while Raniganj and Bogra closed the year with a balance of Rs. 8,946 and Rs. 2,505 against liabilities amounting to Rs. 30,640 and Rs. 11,394, respectively.

Education.

250. The total amount spent on education, including the Government grant of Rs. 1·43 lakhs, was Rs. 6·56 lakhs against Rs. 5·78 lakhs in the preceding year. The expenditure on primary education showed an increase of Rs. 69,000, which was shared by all the divisions except Burdwan where it remained almost stationary. As usual, Howrah spent the largest amount, viz., Rs. 65,907 on primary education. Chittagong came next with an expenditure of Rs. 59,032 which represented 41·8 per cent. of its total ordinary income. The Dacca Municipality spent Rs. 28,597 including a Government contribution of Rs. 13,950 and maintained 7 boys' free primary schools and 11 girls' schools besides granting stipends to a large number of other primary schools under private management both for boys and girls. The Narayanganj Municipality spent Rs. 22,790 and maintained 7 free primary schools including 1 girls' school and made grants-in-aid to other primary and secondary schools as well as to tols and maktabs. The Madaripur Municipality devoted 25·6 per cent. of its ordinary income to primary education, while Faridpur and Budge Budge spent 21·6 per cent. and 20·3 per cent., respectively. Thirteen municipalities on the other hand failed to spend even 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income which represents the minimum amount that a municipality is ordinarily expected to devote to primary education; Dum Dum again spent only 1·7 per cent. of its income on primary education, while Netrokona spent nothing. The ratio was, however, over 5 per cent. in 60 municipalities and over 10 per cent. in 27 others.

In the Presidency Division expenditure on education increased in Budge Budge, South Suburban, Bhatpara, Garulia, Dum Dum and Kanchrapara.

The Chittagong Municipality spent Rs. 85,797 on education, of which Rs. 21,306 was received from Government, Rs. 21,134 from school fees and Rs. 1,200 as private contribution. This municipality was the first to introduce free and compulsory primary education for boys within its area. The standard of education imparted is reported to have considerably improved. The number of boys in the higher classes has also substantially increased during year under report. There was a marked increase in expenditure in Darjeeling (Rs. 10,074) mainly due to construction of the municipal primary school for girls at a cost of

Rs. 8,135. There was also a slight increase in Rajshahi owing to the establishment of another free primary school during the year.

Water-supply.

251. The total expenditure on water-supply fell from Rs. 10·1 lakhs to Rs. 9·82 lakhs. There was a decrease in expenditure in the Burdwan Division amounting to Rs. 88,854 which was shared by the municipalities in the districts of Midnapore, Hooghly and Howrah. The decrease in the first named district was chiefly due to the payment of arrear contribution by the Midnapore Municipality, to the water-works depreciation fund in the previous year, and in the Hooghly district to the fact that the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality had paid off the major portion of the liability in the previous year. No explanation has been furnished for the reduction of expenditure in the Howrah district. On the other hand, there was an increase of Rs. 3,099 in the Burdwan district due to the fact that the water-works machinery of the Burdwan Municipality had to be thoroughly overhauled as a result of the Damodar flood in September 1935. The Asansol Municipality had also to pay increased electric charges for extra hours of pumping on account of fall of the water level in the suction well. Several other municipalities in the division, viz., Kalna, Katwa, Ranigunge, Suri, Bankura, Champdany, Rishra-Konnagore and Bansberia increased their expenditure on water supply by extending their pipe lines or sinking more tube-wells. Bally supplied drinking water by means of a large number of tube-wells without charging any water rate from the rate-payers. The independent water supply scheme of Serampore was almost completed and the municipality applied for another loan from Government for further extension of its water supply.

In the Presidency Division expenditure rose by about Rs. 74,000, of which the new municipality of Garden Reach was responsible for Rs. 40,848. Increases in Tollygunge (Rs. 17,394) and Garulia (Rs. 2,680) were due to capital charges in connection with deep tube-wells, and in Dum Dum (Rs. 13,092), Nabadwip and South Suburban to the payment of arrear dues. During the year under report, the joint water-supply scheme of the Baranagar and Kamarhati Municipalities and the independent scheme of Halisahar were administratively approved by Government. At Bhatpara, the decentralised storage system of water-supply which forms part of the town improvement scheme was still under consideration, and at Kanchrapara a scheme for supply of drinking water in the non-railway area received the attention of the Municipal Commissioners. The water-supply extension scheme of the Khulna Municipality received the approval of Government during the year under report.

In the Dacca Division, Mymensingh Municipality alone was responsible for an increase of Rs. 57,105, of which Rs. 50,000 represented capital expenditure for improvement of water-supply. Expenditure in Dacca decreased because some bills for the supply of coal and alum remained unpaid at the close of the year.

The expenditure in the Rajshahi Division showed a decrease of Rs. 50,207 due to the fact that several municipalities had incurred unusually heavy capital expenditure during the preceding year. The execution of the Rajshahi water-works scheme drawn up by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 2,33,000 was in progress. It is proposed to execute the scheme in three sections and Government had sanctioned the detailed schemes in respect of the first and second sections at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,12,000 to be financed by private donations (Rs. 70,000), district board contribution (Rs. 7,000) and a loan from Government (Rs. 35,000). A sum of Rs. 70,286 has already been collected as private donation to the scheme and the district board has also made provision for their contribution in the budget estimate for the current year. The water-works at Jalpaiguri made no satisfactory progress with regard to house connections as the water was found on chemical analysis to be unsuitable for drinking purposes owing to the high percentage of iron contained in it. An iron-eliminating and chlorinating plant was installed towards the close of the year and the quality of water is reported to have distinctly improved as a result. The supply of water from tube-wells at Bogra continued to be unsatisfactory. Bacteriological examination has shown that most of the tube-wells are contaminated and that the water is unfit for human consumption. The municipality was asked to take up a comprehensive water-supply scheme by other means, but no action appears to have been taken yet by the Commissioners. The water-works schemes at Pabna and Rangpur showed no signs of any progress. The establishment of an electric power house at Pabna reopened the question of water-supply from tube-wells and the municipality was asked to have the water in the tube-well tested and a scheme prepared by the Public Health Department in separate sections if it could not finance a complete scheme at once. The water of the tube-well installed by the English Bazar Municipality proved to be hard and many people had recourse to water from the river or even from dirty ponds. The Public Health Department recommended the installation of a softening plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 22,000, but no action has yet been taken in the matter. The execution of the scheme for supply of filtered water to the Dow Hill area in the Kurseong Municipality at a cost of Rs. 12,000 was nearing completion. The municipality also effected some economy in filtered water-supply in the Kurseong

town by providing an unfiltered supply to the garages in the Burdwan Road area at a cost of Rs. 600.

Conservancy.

252. The total expenditure on conservancy decreased from Rs. 26·09 lakhs in 1934-35 to Rs. 23·23 lakhs during the year under report, but this was still largely in excess of the receipts from the conservancy rate which amounted to Rs. 16·49 lakhs and the deficit was as usual met from the general fund. In the Burdwan Division, there was a net decrease of Rs. 55,827 in the expenditure, of which Howrah alone was responsible for Rs. 52,888, Midnapore for Rs. 4,032, and Rishra-Konnagar for Rs. 1,454. Burdwan, however, increased expenditure under this head through the introduction of various improvements in the conservancy system. In the Presidency Division, Bhatpara, which spent Rs. 1,19,108 against Rs. 3,12,891 in the preceding year, was mainly responsible for the decrease in the expenditure. The decrease of Rs. 5,003 in the expenditure on conservancy at Berhampore was due to the transfer of certain heads to "Drainage," while less expenditure on the sewerage scheme was responsible for a decrease of Rs. 1,511 at Titagarh. The Dacca Municipality spent Rs. 15,993 more on conservancy by constructing sweepers quarters. The payment of arrear bills for fodder and purchase of a new motor-lorry for removal of night-soil accounted for an increase of Rs. 6,423 in Mymensingh, while the decrease of Rs. 10,323 in the expenditure at Narayanganj was due to large abnormal payments in the previous year on account of cost of lands for new sweeper lines.

The Chittagong Municipality spent Rs. 73,891 on conservancy as against Rs. 70,727 in the preceding year. There was a net decrease of Rs. 8,902 in the total expenditure under this head in the Rajshahi Division which was mainly shared by Jalpaiguri (Rs. 4,885) and Bogra (Rs. 2,568). The Commissioners of the Dinajpur Municipality took no action to carry out the advice of the Director of Public Health that they should remove the trenching ground from its present site which is too close to the inhabited portion of the town. The sanitary condition of the town of Bogra was poor. The small municipality of Old Malda still continued without a latrine system on the ground of paucity of funds and also failed to appoint a Sanitary Inspector. The Commissioners of the Kurseong Municipality arranged for the construction of an incinerator for disposal of town refuse and for the construction of a public latrine.

Drainage.

253. The total expenditure on drainage amounted to Rs. 3·89 lakhs against Rs. 3·35 lakhs in the preceding year. The expenditure in the Burdwan Division remained practically stationary, but in the Presidency Division there was an increase at Naihati

and Garulia. The drainage of a number of municipalities in the neighbourhood of Calcutta was extremely defective and schemes for removing some of the defects were drawn up. The expenditure in the Dacca Division rose from Rs. 46,044 to Rs. 68,044, mainly because Dacca City spent Rs. 23,302 on the purchase of a drain-flushing lorry, on land acquisition and construction of new drains. Chittagong spent Rs. 4,942 for the improvement of drains against Rs. 5,385 in the previous year, but the drainage system in some parts of the town still continued to be unsatisfactory. The existing scheme of drainage in the Rajshahi town needs drastic improvement. It is essential that the outfall should be placed beyond the railway lines to the north and a scheme has been prepared by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, at an estimated cost of Rs. 63,000. The Commissioners of the Dinajpur Municipality took no action on the several schemes for the improvement of the Kachai and Ghagra canals on the grounds that the estimated cost was too heavy and the prospects of success very doubtful. No further progress was made in the schemes drawn up for Jalpaiguri. The condition of drainage at Bogra was extremely unsatisfactory and very little attempt was made even to keep the drains clear.

Lighting.

254. The total expenditure on lighting amounted to Rs. 8·08 lakhs as compared with Rs. 7·15 lakhs in the preceding year. In Asansol the number of electric lights was increased at a cost of Rs. 3,316 and Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality paid off old liabilities amounting to Rs. 5,100. The electric lighting scheme of the Rishra-Konnagore Municipality was sanctioned by Government and necessary arrangements were made for the introduction of electric lighting in the main streets. Baidyabati decided to introduce electric lights in one ward only for the present and a proposal for street lighting by electricity was under consideration at Bansberia. The new municipality of Garden Reach spent Rs. 25,296 and was mainly responsible for the increase of Rs. 38,761 in the expenditure under this head in the Presidency Division. Other municipalities, which showed noticeable increase in expenditure on lighting, were Naihati (Rs. 4,864), Khulna (Rs. 4,134), South Dum Dum (Rs. 2,865), Kamarhati (Rs. 2,026), and South Subarban (Rs. 1,888). On the other hand, Baranagore reduced its expenditure by Rs. 1,656 and Bhatpara by Rs. 1,274. In the Dacca Division there was an increase of about Rs. 14,000 which was shared by fifteen municipalities. Faridpur spent Rs. 3,329 on payment of arrear bills while Barisal, Dacca and Narayanganj spent money on adding to the number of street lights. The Chittagong Municipality increased its expenditure on lighting by Rs. 4,660 and added 12 more electric

street-lights, bringing the total number of electric lights in the town to 528. The expenditure on lighting in the Rajshahi Division increased from Rs. 1;93 lakhs to Rs. 2:36 lakhs, specially in the Darjeeling Municipality. Most of the important roads in the Rajshahi town have been lighted with electric lights. The scheme for the electrification of the town of Dinajpur made no headway owing to the bad financial position of the municipality. At Jalpaiguri the number of electric street lights rose from 116 to 154.

**Public Health.**

255. Most of the municipalities continued to improve sanitation by filling up, clearing or kerosinising tanks and khals and by cutting down jungles and undergrowth on roadside lands and drains. In several municipalities notices were also served, generally with satisfactory results, on private persons for clearance of weeds and jungles from their lands and for filling up insanitary ditches. Asansol acquired an insanitary tank, filled it up and converted it into a public park, while at Nator bamboo clumps were removed from a third of the municipal area. Anti-malarial measures on scientific lines were adopted by several municipalities in co-operation with the local anti-malarial societies where they existed. At Baruipur (24-Parganas) a scheme on scientific lines for anti-larval measures was drawn up and executed under the direct supervision of the Public Health Department. With financial aid from Government anti-malarial operations were also conducted by the Raniganj, Arambagh, Krishnagar, Santipur and Kushtia municipalities, and at Birnagar in co-operation with the Palli Mandali. As a result of the reclamation of the Skrine canal near Rangpur, undertaken in the preceding year, the incidence of malaria in the town was reduced to 9 per cent., as compared with 22;2 per cent., recorded during the malaria survey in the year 1933. Steps were also taken by several municipalities to eradicate water-hyacinth, the activities of Kushtia, Jessore, Comilla, Kotechandpur, Kanchrapara, Brahmanbaira, Nator and Jalpaiguri being very prominent in this respect.

The municipal authorities as a rule showed energy in taking measures for the prevention and control of epidemic diseases. Small-pox broke out in an epidemic form in a number of towns in the Presidency Division of which Bhatpara, Krishnagar, Ranaghat and Berhampore suffered most. In all these places, adequate measures were taken by the municipalities to check the spread of the disease. The situation at Bhatpara became so serious that the Municipal Commissioners were forced to move Government for extending the emergent regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act to the municipality. At Midnapore, there was a serious outbreak of small-pox which lasted for six months

and also spread to Ghatal. The spread of the disease is reported to have been due to the failure of the municipal health staff to take adequate precautions at the beginning. The situation became so grave that the Public Health Department had to give special assistance. A serious epidemic of small-pox raged in the city of Dacca practically throughout the year under review and resulted in 546 deaths. Additional vaccinators were engaged by the municipality and temporary inspectors were also employed for inspection of markets, offices and railway stations for intercepting infectious cases. Effective steps were taken for the segregation of small-pox cases and a temporary municipal hospital was opened which accommodated 156 patients. A similar outbreak also occurred at Narayanganj during the latter part of the year under report and resulted in about 47 deaths. Cholera broke out in epidemic form at Berhampore and in some municipalities in the district of the 24-Parganas and sporadic cases occurred in a number of other towns. At Berhampore, besides preventive inoculation, notification and segregation of indigent patients in the cholera ward of the Sadar Hospital, disinfection of infected houses and clothing and inspection of markets were undertaken. In the other affected towns prompt precautionary measures succeeded in checking the spread of the disease.

Special arrangements for the treatment of kala-azar, leprosy and anti-rabic treatment were made by a large number of municipalities. The Kala-azar Centre opened at South Dum Dum in the preceding year was maintained and patients were treated there free of charge; a large number of kala-azar patients were also treated at the municipal Kala-azar Centre as well as at the Municipal Charitable Dispensary at Dacca. Arrangements for the treatment of patients suffering from leprosy were made at Sonamukhi, Krishnagar, Nabadwip, Berhampore and Dacca. Arrangements for anti-rabic treatment were made by all municipalities. Krishnagar also maintained a centre for the treatment of tuberculosis, while Nabadwip maintained a maternity home and orphanage in co-operation with the local Lodging House Committee. Maternity welfare work in the mufassal towns is still in an elementary stage, but arrangements were made by some municipalities notably Suri, Krishnagar, Nabadwip, Dacca, English Bazar and Chittagong, for the training of indigenous *dais*, and valuable work was done. The Chittagong Municipality also maintained a trained midwife who attended delivery cases and gave free attendance to the poorer people. Energetic action in the administration of the Food Adulteration Act was taken at Dacca, Faridpur, Barisal, Chittagong, Nabadwip, Krishnagar, Bogra and Rajshahi, but no action was taken by the municipalities in the district of Pabna or at Old Malda and Nawabganj.

The Krishnagar Municipality held a Health Week in March 1936 with good results, while Baranagar and Budge Budge undertook considerable health propaganda. At English Bazar a health exhibition was organised during the Silver Jubilee Celebration in May 1935, and demonstrations on maternity, child-welfare, school hygiene, cholera, small-pox and other preventable diseases were given for three consecutive days. The Kurseong Municipality also arranged to give instructions to the public on questions of general sanitation and infectious diseases with the help of honorary organisers working under the supervision of the Municipal Sanitary Inspector.

**Roads and buildings.**

256. The total expenditure on public works rose from Rs. 12·36 lakhs to Rs. 13·37 lakhs. The increase was mainly noticed in the municipalities in the Presidency, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. In the Burdwan Division there was a net increase of Rs. 15,780 due to increased outlay on "Buildings" (Rs. 4,797), "Roads" (Rs. 16,694) and "Stores" (Rs. 3,631) and a decrease of Rs. 9,342 in the expenditure on "Establishment." As already mentioned, the Asansol Municipality opened a new public park while two such parks were opened at Burdwan. At Raniganj about 800 feet of road were painted for the first time with "Spramex." Out of the total increase of Rs. 47,222 in the Presidency Division, expenditure was increased in the municipalities of Titagarh, Panihati, Berhampore, Murshidabad, South Dum Dum, Khulna and Tollygunj. There was a net increase of Rs. 33,966 in the Dacca Division. Dacca Municipality spent Rs. 25,735 on the improvement of the Dacca-Narayanganj Road and on the reconstruction of the Dacca Iron Suspension Bridge which was completed during the year under report. The Chittagong Municipality spent Rs. 61,953 on roads as against Rs. 48,279 in the preceding year, but the condition of the roads in still reported to leave considerable room for improvement. In the Comilla Municipality there was a decrease of Rs. 3,431 in comparison with the abnormally high expenditure incurred during the preceding year on the improvement of certain roads made over to the municipality by the district board in a bad state of repairs. In the Rajshahi Division there was an increase of Rs. 39,946, mainly in the Darjeeling Municipality where expenditure on roads and buildings rose by Rs. 31,000. The municipality of Jalpaiguri improved some of its roads and spent Rs. 2,428 more for this purpose than in the previous year.

**Audit.**

257. The accounts of all the municipalities except Asansol, Raniganj, Jaynagar, Garden Reach and Patuakhali were audited by the Examiner of Local Accounts and his staff. No case of embezzlement or misappropriation occurred in any of the municipalities except in Serajganj where a temporary bailiff appointed

on commission system misappropriated Rs. 176-11 out of sums realised by execution of distress warrants. The defalcation was detected in January 1936 and the man was convicted on prosecution. Thirty cart registration tickets were found missing from the custody of the tax daroga of the Dinajpur Municipality. There was an enquiry by a Committee of the Commissioners and on its recommendation the daroga was degraded to the post of assistant tax daroga for gross neglect of duties. The charge of misappropriation of the municipal fund against the former Vice-Chairman of the Jaynagar Municipality reported in the preceding year ended in conviction. In the criminal cases instituted in connection with the defalcation in the Bhola Municipality, mentioned in the previous report, the ex-Chairman, the head clerk and the accountant, who were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment by the lower court, were subsequently acquitted on appeal, while the sentence of imprisonment passed on the tax-collector was reduced. The head clerk, the accountant and the tax-collector were dismissed from the service of the municipality. There was the usual crop of minor irregularities and some of these were of a serious character. The chronic delay in attending to audit objections still continued and, generally speaking, there was laxity of supervision on the part of the municipal executives and a tendency to place too much reliance upon the office staff.

## District Boards.

258. During the year under review there were 26 district boards in the province with a total number of 696 members, of whom 448 were elected and 248 appointed. Of the appointed members 101 were officials and 147 non-officials. The district boards of Howrah and Noakhali were reconstituted during the year. There were elected Chairmen in all the district boards, with three exceptions as before. In Darjeeling the Deputy Commissioner was Chairman, and it was still considered necessary to reappoint the District Magistrates of Midnapore and Bankura to be Chairmen of their respective district boards. Altogether 414 meetings were held during the year, against 389 in the previous year. Of these 24 were adjourned as against 16 in the previous year, but not a single meeting proved abortive for want of a quorum. The percentage of attendance was highest in Howrah, Faridpur, Hooghly, Mymensingh, Bankura, Khulna and Nadia, being 87·25. 87·2, 87; 86·77, 85·8, 85·8 and 84·2, respectively, and lowest in Tippera, Bakarganj and Jalpaiguri being 64·8, 68·6 District boards.

and 69·12, respectively. All the district boards with the exception of Dacca, Mymensingh and Darjeeling held their meetings at least once a month. The percentage of attendance of official members was highest in Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Howrah, Rangpur, Nadia, Pabna and Midnapore being 97·4, 95·8, 92·16, 80, 80, 78·3 and 78, respectively and lowest in Tippera, Jalpaiguri, Chittagong, Bakarganj, Dacca and Birbhum being 38:46, 42:65, 43;75, 48:3, 55·5, and 56·2, respectively.

**Local boards.**

259. The number of local boards continued to be 84 as in the previous year; and they were presided over by 80 non-official and 4 official Chairmen. The total number of members was 1,383, consisting of 85 officials, 429 appointed non-officials and 869 elected members. The boards held altogether 731 meetings against 679 in the previous year, and of these only one meeting proved abortive for want of a quorum and 9 were adjourned. The average percentage of attendance was highest (92·0) at Diamond Harbour and lowest (48:33) at Nilphamari.

**Union committees.**

260. At the beginning of the year the number of union committees was 12, viz., 7 in Midnapore, and 5 in 24-Parganas. But of the 7 union committees in Midnapore, Contai and Danton were converted into union boards in March 1936. These were the only committees to levy a tax under section 118-C of the Local Self-Government Act. These two union committees as well as 3, viz., Hazipur, Magrahat and Mollarchuk, in the 24-Parganas, were in receipt of allotments from the respective district boards. The union committee constituted in 1933-34 at Alipore Duars in the district of Jalpaiguri failed to function during the year under report owing to the existence of party factions.

**Finance.**

261. The total receipts of district boards, excluding opening balances, amounted to Rs. 178:12 lakhs against Rs. 173·44 lakhs in 1934-35. The receipts increased under "Interest" from Rs. 2:37 lakhs to Rs. 2;86 lakhs; under "Medical" from Rs. 16;59 lakhs to Rs. 17;76 lakhs; under "Railways" from Rs. 67,748 to Rs. 82,676; under "Irrigation and other minor works" from Rs. 29,335 to Rs. 31,859; and under "Civil Works" from Rs. 20:63 lakhs to Rs. 24·80 lakhs. The receipts, however, decreased under the head "Local rates" from Rs. 96;53 lakhs to Rs. 95;82 lakhs; under "Police" from Rs. 1;37 lakhs to Rs. 1·31 lakhs; under "Education" from Rs. 14;79 lakhs to Rs. 13·23 lakhs; under "Miscellaneous" from Rs. 5;3 lakhs to Rs. 3·96 lakhs; and under "Law and Justice" from Rs. 30,061 to Rs. 14,554.

The expenditure rose under the head "Administration" from Rs. 7·3 lakhs to Rs. 7·4 lakhs, under "Scientific and other minor

departments" from Rs. 2·57 lakhs to Rs. 2·58 lakhs; under "Superannuation allowance and pension" from Rs. 2;23 lakhs to Rs. 2·49 lakhs; under "Famine Relief" from Rs. 82,613 to Rs. 2;85 lakhs; under "Civil Works" from Rs. 60;27 lakhs to Rs. 70·85 lakhs; under "Law and Justice" from Rs. 14,338 to Rs. 17,555; under "Medical" (including Public Health) from Rs. 33;10 lakhs to Rs. 39;54 lakhs; and under "Miscellaneous" from Rs. 1:43 lakhs to Rs. 2:28 lakhs. The expenditure, however, fell under the head "Interest" from Rs. 98,458 to Rs. 41,470; under "Education" from Rs. 32 lakhs to Rs. 30;21 lakhs; and under "Minor Works and Navigation" from Rs. 9,132 to Rs. 8,650.

Education.

262. The total income of district boards under this head further decreased from Rs. 14:78 lakhs in 1934-35 to Rs. 13:78 lakhs during 1935-36. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 30:21 lakhs against Rs. 32·0 lakhs in the previous year. The loss of income and the fall in expenditure are explained by the transfer of Government grants from several district boards to district school boards in districts where these had been formed as a preliminary step in preparation for giving effect to the provisions of the Primary Education Act. The number of primary schools maintained or aided by district boards was 37,213 with 1,277,232 pupils, of whom 250,278 were girls. These figures continue to show a decrease in the number of institutions and students, but the decrease is only apparent and is consequent upon the transfer of charge of primary education in certain districts to the district school boards. The total expenditure of district boards on primary education was Rs. 21,55,142 against Rs. 22,57,857 in the previous year. Some of the district boards (*e.g.*, Tippera, Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur) maintained free primary schools. The total number of middle English schools maintained and aided by district boards was 42 and 1,090, respectively, with a total number of 95,346 pupils.

No high English school was maintained by any district board but altogether 10 such schools with a total number of 1,879 pupils received financial assistance from them.

The various boards continued, as usual to maintain or aid by stipends or otherwise, the existing technical and industrial schools. They were also not unmindful of maktabs and tols. Some of the district boards also continued to contribute towards the maintenance of certain medical schools, while several made arrangements for the training of *dhais* with contributions made by Government.

**Public Health and medical relief.**

263. The total expenditure under this head, including sanitation and vaccination, was 39:54 lakhs as against 36;45 lakhs in the preceding year. The aggregate income also increased from Rs. 16:59 lakhs to Rs. 17:76 lakhs, of which subventions from provincial revenues amounted to Rs. 14;96 lakhs against Rs. 14:36 lakhs in the previous year. The number of dispensaries maintained by district boards increased from 642 to 652. The number of aided dispensaries also rose from 431 to 445. The latter included a number of homœpathic and a few ayurvedic dispensaries. The state-aid given to village and thana dispensaries helped to augment the number of such institutions and the objective of at least one dispensary for each thana was steadily pursued. In view of the inadequacy of provision for medical relief in rural areas, the movement for the establishment of a small dispensary for each union board or group of union boards elicited popular appreciation. This movement also received a great impetus by the utilization of a share of the central grant for rural uplift to meet the capital cost of the establishment of small dispensaries of an approved type on the condition that the recurring expenditure was guaranteed from local sources. Several union boards have seized this opportunity and established new dispensaries of their own. The affairs of the hospital attached to the Jackson Medical School, Jalpaiguri, were placed on a satisfactory basis during the year and necessary improvements were effected with a loan of Rs. 1,28,000 advanced by Government to the Jalpaiguri district board, and the extension of the hospital buildings was nearly completed during the year. The property of the hospital has been vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments and the governing body of the hospital constituted with representatives of the contributing local bodies. The loan charges are being met under arrangement by the seven other district boards in the division. All the district boards, the tea gardens in Jalpaiguri, European and Indian, the municipality of Jalpaiguri and the Bengal-Duars Railway have also agreed to contribute towards the maintenance of this improved hospital at the headquarters of the division. The decentralized scheme of anti-rabic treatment, under which the local bodies took over the specialized treatment of patients in their own dispensaries, worked satisfactorily. The specialized treatment of leprosy was undertaken by several district boards, viz., Bankura, Midnapore, Birbhum, Howrah, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra which opened and maintained treatment centres, while others, *e.g.*, Darjeeling, contributed towards the maintenance of leper hospitals. The total expenditure under the head "Sanitation" rose by Rs. 3,52,855 from Rs. 17,98,490 to Rs. 21,51,345 inclusive of an expenditure of Rs. 2,47,350 on vaccination.

Measures against malaria and kala-azar.

264. The campaign against malaria and kala-azar, both curative and preventive, was carried on with energy by the district boards, Government making the usual subventions. The anti-malarial societies assisted in this campaign. Treatment centres for kala-azar were maintained in almost all the affected districts. As usual owing to its proximity to Assam kala-azar was specially prevalent in the district of Rangpur. The district board, however, rose to the occasion and spent the highest amount ever allotted for combating the disease. With a view to its eradication the district board have suggested, with substantial contribution from Government, the opening of a network of treatment centres and dispensaries and compulsory treatment of all kala-azar cases including carriers under regulations similar to those in vogue in the province of Assam. Anti-malarial work undertaken by various district boards was carried out by (1) distribution of quinine and cinchona febrifuge, (2) deputation of doctors to affected areas for giving free treatment and advice, (3) starting temporary fever dispenaries, (4) filling up of insanitary *dobas* and clearing of jungles, (5) carrying out anti-pistia work, (6) clearing tanks of weeds, (7) propaganda by means of cinema and magic lantern, (8) mosquito larvæ demonstrations, (9) taking of spleen indices, and (10) draining *dobas* and water-pits and breaking up earthen pots containing mosquito larvæ or otherwise destroying such larvæ.

The experiment to control malaria by the administration of plasmochin and quinine inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor in 1933-34, within the malarial tract in Memari thana, was continued during the year under the direct supervision of the Public Health Department. The experiment was attended with much success.

Cholera and small-pox.

265. There was an extensive and virulent outbreak of small-pox in the district of Dacca closely followed by an outbreak of cholera. Small-pox first made its appearance in Dacca town and in spite of the best efforts of the municipal board to control the disease the epidemic spread from the town to the villages and within a short time the district was in grip of the dire disease which reaped a very heavy toll. Temporary regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act were promulgated and a very large number of vaccinators was appointed. Although after two months of continuous and strenuous efforts the situation was brought under control, cholera followed almost on its heels. The outbreak was at once sudden and severe. In spite of the best efforts of the permanent public health staff and the temporary hands appointed for the purpose, the virulence of the epidemic remained unabated for about a month and only subsided by the

133012

middle of May after the monsoon set in. Cholera and small-pox also broke out in an epidemic form in certain other districts and the district boards took prompt and adequate steps for combating them. The rural public health organizations did valuable work and helped materially in controlling the epidemics wherever they occurred. They also looked after the sanitary arrangements in fairs and *melas*. In certain districts there was an outbreak of a new disease, popularly called "Jhin Jhinia," which generally caused more alarm than harm. The district boards took proper steps to check its progress. Action under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919, was regularly taken by the district boards, but still more vigorous and extensive efforts are required if adulteration of rural foodstuffs is to be effectively checked.

**Veterinary.**

266. There was no appreciable advance of the veterinary activities of district boards during the year. The income and expenditure under this head were Rs. 2,791 and Rs. 1,83,942 compared with Rs. 2,219 and Rs. 1,79,504, respectively, of the previous year. Several district boards maintained veterinary dispensaries and hospitals with veterinary staff; Itinerant veterinary surgeons were retained for touring in the interior and treating cases of cattle diseases. Cattle epidemic broke out in several districts, *e.g.*, Burdwan, Khulna, Jessore, Murshidabad, Malda, Pabna, Jalpaiguri, Rajshahi and Noakhali. In most places it yielded speedily to inoculation and other preventive measures, but these are seriously hampered by the paucity of itinerant veterinary doctors.

**Civil works.**

267. The receipts under this head rose from Rs. 20·63 lakhs to Rs. 24·80 lakhs, and expenditure from Rs. 60;27 lakhs to Rs. 70;85 lakhs. Expenditure on "Communication" amounted to Rs. 44;44 lakhs against Rs. 37;70 lakhs in the previous year. This indicates that largely assisted by grants from the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund and, in certain instances, from the provincial share of the Road Account, the district boards have been able to undertake new programme for road construction and improvement of existing roads. The actual expenditure incurred by district boards, during the year under report on "Original works," was Rs. 14·56 lakhs against Rs. 10;76 lakhs and on "Repairs" Rs. 29;87 lakhs against Rs. 26·94 lakhs in the previous year. There is, however, still a number of these boards, which in spite of increasing receipts have not been able to check the tendency towards decrease in their normal expenditure on roads.

The increase of expenditure under this head in the Burdwan Division was shared by Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore and Howrah and in the Presidency Division by all district boards

except Jessore, where there was a decrease of Rs. 41,099 as compared with the previous year owing to the subvention from Road Development Fund being received late and not being expended during the year.

The increase in the Dacca Division was shared by all the district boards. The Mymensingh district board spent Rs. 1,44,440 on the Mymensingh-Tangail Road under the Road Board scheme against Rs. 1,14,229 in the previous year. Bakarganj showed an increase of Rs. 68,978, being the extra amount spent out of the heavy arrear collections of cesses in the previous year. In Dacca the expenditure on the improvement of the Dacca-Narayanganj Road out of the Road Development Fund was Rs. 28,058.

In the Chittagong Division the increase in expenditure on Civil works including "Water-supply" and "Drainage" from Rs. 5,53,166 to Rs. 6,39,095 was due to increased expenditure by all the three district boards, particularly Tippera which devoted its attention mainly to "Water-supply" and "Communications." On the improvement of roads and construction of bridges this board spent Rs. 1,51,737 as against Rs. 97,307 in the previous year, while the district boards of Chittagong and Noakhali spent Rs. 1,25,741 and Rs. 1,63,392 as against Rs. 1,12,245 and Rs. 1,39,924, respectively, in the previous year.

The total expenditure on Civil works in the Rajshahi Division rose from Rs. 16,40,777 to Rs. 17,94,529. Of this the outlay on "Communication," "Original works" and "Repairs" amounted to Rs. 4,45,482 and Rs. 6,67,865 against Rs. 4,00,709 and Rs. 6,08,601, respectively, in the previous year showing an increase of Rs. 44,773 and Rs. 59,264 under the respective sub-heads. The total increase in the outlay on Civil works, viz., Rs. 1,53,752 was shared by all district boards except Rangpur and Darjeeling where the total outlay was less than that of the last year. The decrease in Darjeeling was marked, viz., Rs. 38,648. Pabna topped the list with an increased expenditure of Rs. 91,490 and Jalpaiguri came next with an increase of Rs. 44,564. The short expenditure in Rangpur and Darjeeling was attributed, respectively, to short receipts from cess and smaller receipts from the motor vehicles tax.

268. The total expenditure under this head rose from Rs. 5·80 lakhs to Rs. 8·03 lakhs during the year under report. **Water-supply.**

The increase in the Burdwan Division was from Rs. 1,22,452 to Rs. 2,12,035, of which Rs. 1,81,279 was spent on "Original Works" and Rs. 30,756 on "Repairs." The expenditure on Original Works increased in the districts of Birbhum, Midnapore,

Hooghly and Howrah while it fell in other districts. The Burdwan district board spent a sum of Rs. 44,524, against Rs. 47,936 in the preceding year, on excavating 41 masonry well and 156 tube-wells. In Birbhum the expenditure on water-supply was Rs. 40,561 against Rs. 8,276 in the previous year. The increase was due to extensive scheme of water-supply upon which the board felt bound to launch in view of acute water-scarcity prevailing in the district in the early part of the year. In Midnapore the expenditure was Rs. 62,530 against Rs. 54,410 in the previous year. The local boards sank 165 tube-wells against 135 in the preceding year, and a few masonry wells were sunk by certain other local boards, particularly Jhargram, where the soil was unsuitable for sinking tube-wells. In Hooghly the problem of water-supply may be said to have been solved to an appreciable extent with about 3,000 tube-wells, 200 ring-wells and 122 district board masonry wells now in existence. There are also 175 reserve tanks, of which 75 are district board tanks. The tube-well scheme has proved very useful and successful in this district and there are now few villages in the district without a tube-well except Badanganj where the laterite is not suitable for ordinary tube-wells. Howrah sank 11 tube-wells and re-sank 27 choked tube-wells and spent Rs. 15,965 against Rs. 12,602 in the previous year.

In the Presidency Division there was an increase of Rs. 14,374 in the expenditure under this head. The expenditure on original works increased in the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad and Khulna and decreased in other districts. The decrease in the 24-Parganas from Rs. 53,576 to Rs. 28,139 was due to normal work being held up for the more important test relief work which had a greater claim on the district fund. In Murshidabad 149 tube-wells were completed and in Khulna 265 such wells were sunk and 19 tanks excavated at a cost of Rs. 47,923. The Khulna district board also contributed Rs. 17,000 towards the Bagerhat water-supply scheme.

In the Dacca Division the expenditure rose from Rs. 1,86,069 to Rs. 2,67,041. Of this total outlay Rs. 2,20,683 was on account of "Original Works" and Rs. 46,358 for "Repairs." Both the classes of expenditure increased in all the districts. In Dacca, the cost of maintenance of the Munshiganj Waterworks was Rs. 2,760, and that of running the Nawab Yousuff Waterworks at Nangalbund during the mela was Rs. 691. The Mymensingh district board constructed 136 masonry and ferro-concrete wells, 300 tube-wells and excavated two tanks. In Bakarganj, the construction of only five new tanks began during the year and the construction of four tanks taken up in the preceding year was completed. Rs. 3,257 and Rs. 3,899 were also paid by way of

contribution towards excavating 8 tanks in khas mahal areas and 37 tanks in union board areas. Altogether there were 364 reserve tanks under the control of district board excluding 155 tanks excavated by the colonization and Khas Mahal Departments and union boards with contributions from the district board.

The Tippera district board spent Rs. 32,468 on water-supply during the year under review. It sank 123 new and re-sank 36 tube-wells. One-hundred and ninety-three tanks have been excavated or re-excavated by this board up to the year under review and the number of tube-wells sunk by it reached 418. In Chittagong 7 tanks had been re-excavated under the loan system in different parts of the district and 6 ring-wells were constructed in the Cox's Bazar subdivision. The district board spent only Rs. 4,720 on this account during the year. In Noakhali, it was found impracticable to sink tube-wells in the *char* areas and also in some parts of the main land owing to the nature of the soil. As scarcity of water is most acute in these areas, the excavation of tanks is the only means of supplying drinking water. As the resources of the district board is inadequate for the purpose, it is proposed to raise a loan by capitalizing a part of the boards expenditure on water supply.

The expenditure on water-supply in the Rajshahi Division rose from Rs. 1,02,663 to Rs. 1,27,561, the most noticeable increase being in the district of Pabna, viz., from Rs. 16,352 to Rs. 36,658. In Rajshahi five reinforced concrete ring-wells and seven tube-wells were completed and the construction of one masonry well, five reinforced concrete ring-wells and 17 tube-wells were in progress at the close of the year. The Jalpaiguri district board paid Rs. 10,000 to the Jalpaiguri Municipality as the last instalment of the board's contribution towards the municipal waterworks scheme. In Rangpur 3 tube-wells and 14 masonry wells and 32 cement concrete wells were completed. Bogra prepared a 3 years' scheme for water-supply by sinking tube-wells and applied for a loan of one lakh of rupees to cover the cost of sinking 1,100 tube-wells during the next 3 years. The total number of tube-wells sunk during the year was 274, bringing the total number in the district to 1,588. Pabna, which spent the largest amount on rural water-supply, constructed 89 masonry wells and 19 tube-wells, while the Sadar and Serajganj local boards sank 58 and 107 ring-wells, respectively. The Malda district board completed the construction of 14 wells and two tube-wells. Water-supply being a very urgent need in Malda, a scheme for tackling the problem on a larger scale by raising a loan is under the contemplation of the district board.

# CHAPTER VIII.

## Agriculture, Forests and Co-operation.

### Agriculture.

[Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1935-36.]

Charge.

269. Mr. K. McLean continued in charge of the department throughout the year. He was confirmed as Director of Agriculture, Bengal, with effect from the 20th October 1935 on retirement of Dr. G. P. Hector.

Research and experiments.

270. Considerable success attended the activities of the research section during the year where full advantage was taken of the financial assistance offered by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and of the advice afforded by their experts. The following schemes of research were financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research:—

(1) Sugar Seedling Testing Station at Dacca;

(2) Investigation into problems of animal nutrition;

(3) Investigation into problems of soil physics;

(4) Economic enquiry into the cost of cultivation of sugarcane and other rotation crops;

(5) Improvement of trade rices in West Bengal;

(6) Horticultural research at Krishnagar under Economic Botanist, Bengal; and

(7) The marketing scheme for Bengal which started its operation under Senior Marketing Officer, Bengal.

At the Universities of Calcutta and Dacca also research work on soils and soil colloids, on nutrition of rice plant and on experimental errors in field trials, was continued with their grants.

The work on the scheme for investigation of the possibilities of improving Comilla cotton which was started in the previous year was continued with the grant of the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

The investigation into the manurial value of Damodar silt was continued, the silt being found to be rich in all manurial ingredients—nitrogen, potash and phosphate.

Agricultural education.

271. There was an increased demand for admission into the Secondary Agricultural School at Dacca, 14 stipends were allotted by the district boards for students coming from their respective districts. With the suspension of the scheme for training of teachers from middle English and high English schools, accommodation was available for extra students, and it is expected that in the coming year 40 students will be admitted. The primary schools at the Kishoreganj and Burirhat Farms had full attendance and, at the instance of the Education Department, it was decided that two extra classes, viz., III and IV, should be provided and this has been approved by Government. With the funds provided by the late Kumar B. K. Roy of Dighapatia which he bequeathed in his will, the construction of an institute at Rajshahi to provide a practical course of training in horticulture, fruit preservation, animal husbandry and dairying has been started. The Bhutnath Agricultural School, Chinsura, made satisfactory progress, the number of students being on the increase. The authorities of the King Edward Middle English School at Chapra, Nadia, withdrew from the Government scheme for Agricultural Education. Instead of establishing a continuation class, a two-year vocational course has been introduced for the Christian boys who have land to return to, and who guarantee that they will take up farming as a profession. During the year 51 schools conducted agricultural classes, including 2 new schools which came under the scheme, as against 54 in the preceding year.

The scheme for relieving unemployment among bhadralog youths launched at the instance of Mr. Burrows who was then Collector of Faridpur was continued. In all 29 young men in six batches have been trained. The great difficulty has been in providing suitable land, the khas mahal land available being accreted land which takes considerable time to attain fertility.

The progress of nature study has been more encouraging than hitherto. The number of primary schools with gardens in the Burdwan Division has risen from 200 to 997.

Agricultural farms.

272. As noticed in the last report there are 20 District Agricultural Farms which are centres for experiments and demonstration and seed multiplications. The districts of Chittagong, Noakhali, Midnapore, Khulna and Jessore still remain without any district farm. In Jessore, however, there is a small khas mahal farm continuing to serve the purpose of a District Farm on a small scale.

The season on the whole was unsatisfactory for all crops except *aus* paddy and jute. Practically all farms suffered from

drought during the *aman* season; and the Burdwan, Dinajpur and Rangpur Farms had floods in addition which practically destroyed the whole of the *aman* paddy crop. There was also a shortage of fodder which had not occurred for a number of years. On the Rangamati Farm successful results were again obtained with groundnuts. On all farms artificial farmyard manure was manufactured as a matter of routine for application to the land and as demonstration to cultivators.

Private farms continued to be valuable centres for multiplication of departmental seeds and for demonstration of improved methods.

**Seed distribution.**

273. During the year under review the following quantities of improved varieties of seeds and cuttings were distributed throughout the Province:—

Groundnut—670 maunds.

Sugarcane cuttings (Co. 213)—19,072,000 cuttings.

Tobacco seeds—4,911 tolas.

Napier grass cuttings—904,000.

There was a notable increase in cultivation of sugarcane and tobacco, as a result of the campaign for jute restriction.

The area under sugarcane in the Province increased from 276,000 to 325,000 acres, of which 244,000 acres was reported to be under Co. 213. Of 307,000 acres under tobacco 70,000 was reported to be planted with departmental types.

**Cattle breeding.**

274. While the main difficulty in the way of the improvement of live-stock has been shortage of funds, it was possible to undertake an extensive campaign in the districts of Malda-Rajshahi, Nadia-Murshidabad, Hooghly-Bankura, Dacca-Faridpur and Tippera-Noakhali under the charge of 5 Live Stock Officers, of whom 3 were appointed during the year. Two hundred and thirty bulls were under the charge of the Live Stock Officer in Rajshahi-Malda and 65 under the charge of the officer in Hooghly-Bankura. Nineteen stud bulls were issued free from District Farms and 14 were sold for stud purposes in the districts. The district boards of Rajshahi and Malda continued to contribute towards the purchase of bulls and purchased 17 selected bulls for free issue. The district boards of Murshidabad and Hooghly also allotted funds for the purchase of bulls and poultry. Government accepted the proposal of devoting the funds sanctioned for premia to honoraria and prizes and accordingly prizes of Rs. 60 and Rs. 25 were given to the owners who showed the best result in the districts. During the year funds were

allotted from the Government of India for rural uplift to provide 100 stud bulls in each of the 10 districts in which Live Stock Officers are posted. Ten Veterinary Officers were also to be posted in these districts for a period of two years to undertake an intensive campaign of castration of scrub bulls. All the district boards in the 10 districts are providing funds to meet the cost of the transit of stock within their district and for the purchase of male progeny for free distribution.

Agricultural engineering.

275. The agricultural Engineer, Bengal, has concluded his work on the improvement of open pan factory machinery and is now devoting his attention to the improvement of methods of manufacture. In collaboration with the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Bengal, the Imperial Sugar Technologist and the Imperial Chemical Industries, the Agricultural Engineer, Bengal, has evolved a practice whereby he has been able to obtain a recovery of sugar from cane as high as 8;5 per cent. in small scale experiments. Owing to the depreciation in the price of *gur*, the manufacture of sugar in open pan factories has again become profitable.

Demonstration and propaganda.

276. While the activities of the department on the demonstration and propaganda side continued on the usual lines through lantern lectures in hâts, exhibitions and fairs, through the medium of wireless talks on agriculture given by departmental officers in Calcutta and through cinema shows and departmental publications, it is very satisfactory to note the increasing interest which a large number of district and union boards, as well as khas mahals and Court of Wards estates have taken in the matter by the provision of funds for demonstrating staff and for distribution of seeds.

## Weather and Crops.

[Season and crop report of Bengal for the year 1935-36, crop forecasts of Bengal for the year 1935-36, Agricultural Statistics of India, Vol. I].

Character of the season.

277. The rainfall in March, although deficient, was sufficient for preparatory tillage for autumn crops and broadcast paddy. In April and the early part of May, the rainfall was again deficient. As a result sowings were generally late specially in highland areas, but in East and parts of North Bengal lowland sowings were carried on satisfactorily with the usual soil moisture. General rainfall from the second half of May to June facilitated *kharif* sowings specially in West and parts of North Bengal. It also favoured preparation of lands for winter paddy seedlings, sowings in seedbeds and the growth of the germinated deep-water paddy. As a consequence of insufficient rainfall in July and early

August, transplantation of winter paddy progressed slowly in low-land tracts and was delayed in highlands. Subsequent good rainfall from the end of August to September, however, facilitated late transplantation generally with the result that more land was brought under cultivation. Prolonged drought, from October onwards, not only materially affected the final growth and flowering of transplanted winter paddy, but also adversely interfered with sowings and growth of *rabi* crops, specially in the highland tracts of West and North Bengal. The outturn was consequently reduced. On the whole, the season was fair for *aus* paddy and jute, but unsatisfactory for other crops.

Area and outturn of *bhadoi, aghani* and *rabi* crops.

278. The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1935-36 of *bhadoi, aghani* and *rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year:—

| Name of harvest. | Normal area in acres. | Area cultivated during 1934-35 in acres. | Area cultivated during 1935-36 in acres. | Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn per acre, how much represent the outturn for the year. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1934-35. | 1935-36. |
| *Bhadoi* .. .. | 9,573,900 | 8,636,500 | 8,410,100 | 73 | 76 |
| Winter rice .. | 17,018,500 | 14,760,000 | 14,836,900 | 85 | 68 |
| Sugarcane .. | 200,800 | 276,200 | 325,400 | 86 | 83 |
| Other sugarproducing plants | 55,600 | 53,400 | 55,000 | .. | .. |
| *Rabi* .. .. | 47,46,100 | 4,195,200 | 4,067,900 | 85 | 76 |
| Total .. | 31,594,900 | 27,021,300 | 27,695,300 | .. | .. |

*Bhadoi* crops (excepting jute).

279. The weather was generally favourable during the early period for sowing and growth of the crops. Drought and flood subsequently affected the outturn in some West and North Bengal districts. In East Bengal, lowland crops progressed favourably, while highland crops suffered to some extent from shortage of rain. On the whole, a fairly satisfactory crop was reaped for the province. The outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops for the presidency was estimated at 76 per cent. of the normal this year as against 73 per cent. last year.

Jute.

280. The weather was, on the whole, unfavourable both for preparatory tillage and for sowings in East and North Bengal. As a result sowings were generally late. In East Bengal, however, the germination was good and subsequent conditions improved the prospects of the crop. In North Bengal, on the other hand, the progress of the crop was not satisfactory, owing to drought in some areas and to excessive rain in others. Elsewhere

the growth was satisfactory. In West Bengal drought affected early sowings and growth was not uniform. Later favourable weather enabled further sowings to be made. Subsequent conditions were generally favourable for normal growth and development in East and North Bengal. In West Bengal drought affected the crops. Owing to the shortage of rainfall and late rise in the rivers harvesting was delayed in practically all districts in the province this year.

Area and outturn excepting Cooch Behar and Tripura States were, respectively, estimated at 1,670,300 acres and 5,707,000 bales of 400 lbs. each.

Winter rice crops.

281. At the outset the weather was generally favourable for broadcast paddy and for the transplantation of winter paddy except in highlands especially in West and North Bengal. Subsequent rainfall in September favoured late transplantation with the result that an additional area was brought under cultivation. Drought from October onwards materially affected the final growth and flowering of transplanted winter paddy especially in the highland tracts of West and North Bengal and the outturn was reduced in consequence. A fair crop was reaped for the province, as a whole. The provincial outturn worked out at 68 per cent. of the normal as against 85 per cent. last year.

Sugarcane.

282. At the planting season weather was generally favourable, but drought after germination affected the early period of growth especially in West and parts of East Bengal. From the second half of May alternate rain and sunshine proved beneficial for growth and development generally. Harvesting operations were also carried on under favourable conditions. On the whole, a satisfactory crop was obtained for the province. The outturn for the province was estimated at 83 per cent. of the normal as against 86 per cent. last year.

*Rabi* crops.

283. Prolonged drought, which prevailed from October onwards, adversely interfered with sowings and growth in West Bengal districts. As a result both area and outturn were reduced. Elsewhere a fairly satisfactory crop was reaped excepting in Bogra, Pabna and Dacca, where absence of moisture affected the yield.

The outturn of different *rabi* crops for the province worked at 76 per cent. of the normal as against 85 per cent. last year.

Cotton.

284. At the sowing season the weather was generally favourable for the early crops excepting in the Tripura State where insufficient rain reduced the area. Subsequently the crop thrived

under favourable conditions and a fair yield was obtained. The late variety in Midnapore was not satisfactory. In Bankura the crop was not sown on account of severe drought.

The total outturn of the cotton (including Tripura State) was estimated at 23,931 bales as against 23,758 bales last year.

Area under cultivation.

285. The total cropped area was estimated at 27,695,300 acres this year as against 27,921,300 acres last year.

The figures for the principal crops are shown in the table:—

| Name of crops. | Normal area in acres. | Area cultivated during 1934-35. in acres. | Area cultivated during 1935-36. in acres. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rice .. .. .. .. | 23,533,600 | 20,739,700 | 21,091,900 |
| Other food-grains including pulses and Marua .. | 2,026,300 | 1,642,700 | 1,577,800 |
| Jute .. .. .. .. | 2,310,300 | 2,160,400 | 1,670,300 |
| Oilseeds .. .. .. .. | 1,193,200 | 1,050,600 | 1,016,300 |
| Tobacco .. .. .. .. | 291,300 | 307,600 | 307,100 |
| Sugarcane .. .. .. .. | 200,800 | 276,200 | 325,400 |

Prices.

286. Owing to the unsatisfactory harvest this year, the prices of staple food-grains and of jute ruled generally a little higher than in the previous year.

## Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1935-36].

Royal Botanic Garden.

287. During the year the season was not very favourable for planting out operations. The short rainfall, itself, combined with the reduced normal period of fall affected not a few garden plants in the open, and numbers especially in the riverways entrance to the garden, the Oreodoxa Avenue, had to be removed.

The orchid house has been repaired and a special effort made to make good the damage done to garden labels by a few malcontents, for the great majority of garden visitors of all classes are orderly and appreciative of what is done for them.

A few coolie houses have been partially erected near the economic ground so that some garden labour may live nearby, and be able to keep an eye on plant products.

A lotus bowl for experimental work on water plants in the open has been dug near the flower garden and new beds of roses planted up so that the garden is now very much richer in the rose class than it formerly was.

Routine work of the herbarium went on as usual under the four main departments of activity, namely, identification, acquisition loan of specimens and distribution. The total number of specimens determined is about 3,500, the majority being represented by collections from the Eastern Himalaya. These gatherings of Sikkim plants include a set of valuable specimens brought from Bhutan by His Excellency Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal. These specimens have since been worked out by the Curator of the Herbarium who reports that some of the specimens of His Excellency's collection appear to be new records. A collection of about 290 specimens from Captain Kingdom Ward proved to be a substantial addition to the plants of the Naga Hills, Assam. All these specimens have been identified and mounted. The collection of Dr. N. L. Bor and Mr. Biswas from Sandakphu and Phalute form also a fair portion of this year's identification. The total number of specimens sent on loan this year is about 421. As usual numbers of Librarian sheets have been sent on loan. About 95 sheets of *Psilotum* were scrutinised by Mr. C. E. Parkinson. Mr. C. Norman of the British Museum of Natural History examined critically 77 sheets of *Pleurasperum*. Y Tsing of the Sun Vat Sen University, Canton, China, studied 6 lots from the herbarium belonging to the genera *Aganosma*, *Taxocarpus*, and *Goniostemma*. The specimens received back from loan are about 754.

During the year short papers on jute and allied fibres, the organic growth of the Calcutta Filterworks, the position of the genus *Sansiviera* in India, the vegetation of the Hazaribagh district and new species from Assam were contributed by the Curator of the Herbarium. The treatise on waterplants has attained a larger dimension than was originally intended, and delay has resulted in consequence of the inclusion of more cryptograms, but the writing of the work is now completed and the plates nearly all prepared.

Calcutta gardens.

288. As usual the short rainfall had the effect of delaying planting of winter annuals and the display of these was later than usual. As a result probably of differences in the water supply the Eden Gardens prove a very much better place than the Sibpur Gardens for the development of *Victoria regia*. The gardens as a whole look well and there is continued improvement in the Curzon Garden.

Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

289. As usual distribution of plants, seeds and seedlings were continued. Several attempts have been made for improvement of the garden. Amongst these the most important was a renovation of the rockery. This involved the transport of fresh material to the garden and the result has been much appreciated by the visiting public. A small ferro-concrete bridge and an artificial waterfall have been added to enhance the effect of the improvement. Additions were made including *Schizandra grandiflora* and *Stephania roy rotunda.*

## Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1935-36.]

Plantations.

290. The total area under cinchona at the end of the year was 2,664 acres. Extensions amounting to 356·59 acres which included the replanting of old coppiced blocks were carried out during the year. The quantity of bark harvested in the year under report was 13,29,302 lbs. against 10,95,369 lbs. in the previous year. Hailstorms were experienced in certain divisions in the earlier part of the year causing some damage to younger plants. At Munsong, though the rainfall was below normal, as at Mungpoo, the general deficiency was somewhat counterbalanced by a fall towards the latter part of the year and on the whole the dry season was a normal one. Considerable damage was, however, caused to a portion of the plantation by a hailstorm towards the end of the year. In spite of the efforts of the special investigators the nursery disease at Munsong plantation mentioned in the previous years' reports still awaits identification and in the absence of this, such practical methods as are known to be in some measure effective were employed to prevent its spread. No virgin ground is available here for extensions, and the extensions at Mungpoo now provide the main avenue of development of plantations until fresh areas are available, for which reconnaissance is being made.

Factory.

291. Altogether 13,61,941 lbs. of dried bark were treated in the factory during the year, of this 12,88,863 lbs. were Bengal bark and the rest belonged to the Government of India. The total quantity of quinine sulphate manufactured during the year was 51,026 lbs., of which 2,635 lbs. belonged to the Government of India. The cost of quinine in the bark was Rs. 5·033 per pound and that of manufacture from bark amounted to Rs. 1·515 per pound, thus bringing the total cost of quinine to Rs. 6·548 per pound. The total quantity of cinchona febrifuge manufactured during the year was 23,385 lbs., of which 1,368 lbs. represented the share of the Government of India.

292. The gross receipts were Rs. 10,74,094 and after deducting Rs. 44,653 (comprising Rs. 35,868 due to the Jails Department for distribution work and Rs. 8,785 on account of sales outstanding), the net receipts amounted to Rs. 10,29,441. The total expenditure of the Department including pensionary charges was Rs. 4,44,336. Both receipts and expenditure were higher by Rs. 1,99,912 and Rs. 16,866, respectively, than in the preceding year. The profit on the year's working according to the profit and valuation account amounted to Rs. 5,16,613 as against Rs. 4,25,213 in 1934-35. The increase is due to increase in the trading account and indicated a very satisfactory financial result in comparison with the previous year. In 1935-36, receipts from sales increased in comparison with the previous year by nearly Rs. 2 lakhs. This was due to larger sales of quinine sulphate during the year. The net receipts (excess of actual money receipts over actual money expenditure) rose by Rs. 1,83,046, though the total amount of all the cinchona products sold during the year was approximately the same as in the preceding year. This apparent discrepancy was due to larger sales of quinine sulphates during the year. The stocks were checked. In view of the continued accumulation of quinine sulphate and the shortage of cinchona febrifuge, the sale of the former was opened and that of the latter closed to the general public in January 1935. This diminished the stock of the former and increased that of the latter to a certain extent by the end of the year under report. The value of the stocks held (including quinine in the bark) went down at the end of the year by approximately Rs. 50,000. Finance.

## Forests.

[Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending 31st March 1936.]

293. The total area of reserved forests fell from 6,471 to 6,468 square miles, the decrease being mainly due to the exclusion of 2,595 acres from the non-Araipara Chakra portion of the Atia Forests in the Dacca-Mymensingh Division on account of the unwillingness of the proprietors of the forests to keep them under Government management. There was an increase of 147 square miles in the area of protected forests consequent mainly on the declaration of khas forests in the Chittagong Division as protected forests. The area of unclassed forests remained unaltered. As a result of these changes the total area of all forests (excluding leased lands) at the close of the year stood at 10,802 square miles or 14·03 per cent. of the total area of the Presidency as against 10,658 square miles in the year 1934-35. Area.

**Communications and buildings.**

294. The need for economy hampered the development of communications and for want of funds no new roads and bridges were constructed during the year. The total expenditure incurred in the construction of new buildings was Rs. 30,700 against Rs. 12,690 in the previous year. The bulk of the provision was however spent on the construction of houses for subordinates. The increase was due to the fact that in previous years all such work was held up on account of financial stringency.

**Working plans.**

295. The revised working plan for the Kalimpong Division which was brought into force during the year was under print. The prescriptions of the sanctioned working plans were followed as far as circumstances permitted, and all deviations were duly authorised. In the Chittagong Division the prescriptions of the working plan which was under revision were followed.

**Damage from natural causes.**

296. Climbers did their usual damage in high forests as well as in plantations. Regular creeper cutting operations could not be done for want of funds though steps were taken to remove and burn the worst varieties of climbers. The Assam *lota* was eradicated wherever it appeared on forest land. To prevent insect-pests on *champ* the suggestions of the Forest Entomologist for spraying experiments with a solution of tobacco and soap are being given an exhaustive trial.

Several landslips occurred during the year. The most serious landslip in the Soom Forest of the Darjeeling Division was however arrested by a part of it being planted up.

The erosions of the Tista and Torsa rivers have become annual occurrences, that of the Torsa being more serious. The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

**Utilisation.**

297. The value of the total outturn of the produce extracted departmentally was Rs. 3·95 lakhs against Rs. 3·60 lakhs in 1934-35. The demand for sleepers and matchwood was poor throughout the year. Match-woods, viz., *simul* and *pitali*, were supplied to the match factories in Calcutta at a small and doubtful profit. The Forest Utilisation Officer continued to do useful work in finding markets for purchasers' timber as well as for timber extracted departmentally.

**Revenue and expenditure.**

298. The revenue, expenditure and surplus are compared below with those of the previous year:—

| | Revenue. | Expenditure. | Surplus. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1934-35 .. | 17,82,542 | 14,90,019 | 2,92,523 |
| 1935-36 .. | 20,10,406 | 15,53,316 | 4,57,090 |

299. During the year, 29 persons were killed by tigers against 45 men in the previous year. Six men against 5 in 1934-35 were killed by wild elephants. No persons were killed by leopards though 5 men were reported to have been mauled by them during the year. Rs. 200 was paid as rewards for tigers killed outside the reserved forests of Sunderbans. Rewards for 4 tigers killed during the year could not be paid owing to insufficient funds. General.

The Shooting and Fishing associations in Northern Bengal continued to take keen interest in the preservation of game. The collection of tolls for fishing in the rivers within the reserved forests in the district of Khulna amounted to Rs. 15,618 against Rs. 12,839 in the previous year.

## Veterinary.

[Annual Reports on the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, and of the Bengal Veterinary College for the year 1935-36].

300. In preparation for the inauguration of the Rural Uplift Scheme financed out of the grant from the Government of India, Veterinary Inspectors and Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the districts selected for the distribution of the 1,000 bulls, were given a short course of lectures by the Livestock Expert on the duties which would be required of them to assist in this work. The Director, Civil Veterinary Department, took advantage of their being collected together for this purpose to give them a lecture on the application of goat tissue vaccine in combating outbreaks of rinderpest. Animal husbandry.

301. This year, 1935-36, proved to be the peak year on record for the incidence of rinderpest. The number of deaths amounted to 35,000, double that of the previous year. This loss could have been greatly reduced had there been more veterinary assistants available to attend outbreaks more promptly and to carry out inoculation. Goat tissue vaccine provides an inoculation which gives permanent protection and which will stop outbreaks when thoroughly applied. Rinderpest.

302. Preventive inoculation was carried out in 1,406 outbreaks and about 4 lakhs of animals were inoculated, the death rate among the protected animals being 1·8 per cent. for the whole province. The difficulties of applying the new goat tissue vaccine method had been overcome and it was fortunate that in this year of emergency the new method of inoculation mentioned above had been developed to such a degree that it could replace that of serum alone. With this exception of rinderpest the year was a healthy Inoculation.

one for all other contagious diseases of cattle. Out of 390,000 inoculations performed, as many as 369,350 were against rinderpest, leaving only 20,000 for other contagious diseases, such as anthrax, hæmorrhagic septicæmia, black quarter, etc. In one outbreak alone of rinderpest 90,000 cattle and buffaloes were inoculated, and the disease stamped out. In the anti-rinderpest inoculations of this year goat tissue vaccine replaced the old serum alone method which was used in only 150 cases out of the 369,350 inoculations. This method has been proved beyond question to be economic, safe and efficient, and it can be applied by all trained veterinary assistants in the field under practically all conditions.

**Vaccine Depot.**

303. This depot, established on a temporary basis only, did exceptionally well in achieving an output far exceeding anything for which it was equipped, and in addition it undertook experiments in field production and in packing for distribution in hot weather. The nett cost of production of over 4 lakhs of doses was only Rs. 2,400 excluding cost of staff and distribution. A scheme to establish this Veterinary Vaccine Section on a permanent basis was submitted to Government and accepted. It commenced in July 1936. This section will undertake all the contagious disease work of the department, including diagnosis, and distribution of sera and vaccines.

304. In addition to dealing with contagious diseases the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons working in the mufassal during the year visited 18,494 villages and treated 237,252 cases as against 17,600 villages visited and 153,780 cases treated in the previous year. The number of scrub bulls castrated by them was 5,045 as against 4,137 in the previous year. These figures for the year under review, compared with those of the previous year, indicate that people are beginning to realise the benefit of scientific treatment for their animals.

**Disease Investigation Officer.**

305. This officer is supplied to the Province by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for 5 years. He carried out a number of experiments in the application of goat tissue vaccine, including the actual preparation in the field, the reduction of dosage, and the reaction in milch cows and pregnant animals in which it has also proved to be safe and economic. He demonstrated that the emulsion of 1 in 200 which the Department uses, confers immunity for a period tested so far up to 2¼ years. He also investigated parasitic infestation of cattle, bovine lymphangitis, Calcutta sore, and an outbreak of contagious abortion, and tested a dairy herd for tuberculosis. It is noteworthy that this

herd proved to be free of the disease. There was a severe outbreak of Ranikhet disease among fowls during the year which caused very heavy loss particularly among the flock of improved chickens on the Government Agricultural Farm at Dacca. This outbreak also was investigated by him.

306. The popularity of this College continued, as can be seen from the increasing demand for admission. The number of students on the rolls at the beginning of the session was 183, of whom 70 were from Bengal. The results of the diploma and annual examinations were satisfactory. Bengal Veterinary College.

## Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1935-36.]

307. To celebrate Their Imperial Majesty's Silver Jubilee the garden was open free to the public on the 6th May 1935. Over 12,000 of the holiday makers who had come to Calcutta to witness the celebrations found time to visit the Garden. In addition 48,152 persons visited the garden on other free days. In spite of a drop in the entrance receipts from Rs. 65,055 in 1934-35 to Rs. 57,478 in the year under report, the financial position of the garden was on the whole satisfactory, and this is partly due to the restoration of the Corporation grant in full during the year.

The general health of the animals during the year was very good and there was no epidemic. For the first time in the garden a Hoolock Gibbon was born in the island enclosure. No important casualties occurred amongst the animals with the exception of the killing, by vermin, of a pink-headed duck which was the only specimen of the kind in the garden.

The flower garden was well maintained and there was a particularly good show of annuals. The garden was awarded several prizes for a number of exhibits sent to the Agri-Horticultural Society's Annual exhibition.

## Co-operative Banks and Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Banks and Societies in Bengal for the year 1935-36.]

308. The sixth year of acute economic depression finds the organisation taking steps to gradually improve its position and remove its past defects. The continued effect of the slump, the unsteady price level of agricultural commodities, and the failure General development.

of the paddy crop in various parts of the province, have materially hampered the efforts of the department for the renovation of the movement. The energies of the department were directed towards the problems of assisting the financing banks, of improving their budgetary position and of devising appropriate measures for relief of the societies as far as prevailing conditions permitted. The attention of the department therefore continued to be devoted to consolidation of the movement's resources in pursuance of the avowed policy of the department rather than to expansion which was encouraged only in particularly selected areas. The total number of societies of all classes, however, increased slightly from 23,443 to 23,529. The total membership also increased from 830,436 to 843,426 or by 1·5 per cent. as against ·7 per cent. of the previous year.

**Agricultural Societies: (a) Credit.**

309. Owing to the rigidity of the safeguards provided in the new model bye-laws prescribed for the use of the primary agricultural societies, as also to the abnormal reduction in the borrowing and repaying capacity of the ultimate borrowers, the financing banks showed a marked disinclination to sponsor new societies. The number of agricultural societies therefore further declined from 19,807 to 19,790 and the number of their members from 452,756 to 447,451. There was a slight appreciation of the working capital from 5·84 crores to 5·91 crores, but the paid-up share capital fell from Rs. 55·44 lakhs to Rs. 54·46 lakhs. Deposits from members increased from Rs. 18·61 lakhs to Rs. 19·78 lakhs. The reserve fund rose from Rs. 165·26 lakhs to Rs. 177·21 lakhs, while other common funds created out of profits increased from Rs. 27,720 to Rs. 35,634. The total internal capital also increased from Rs. 239·60 lakhs or 41·0 per cent. of last year to Rs. 251·82 lakhs or 42·51 per cent. while the borrowings from the Provincial and Central Banks amounted to Rs. 323·37 lakhs or 54·6 per cent. of the working capital as against Rs. 328·52 lakhs or 56·2 per cent. of the previous year. Loans issued to members during the year further declined from Rs. 24·72 lakhs to Rs. 23·30 lakhs, but the repayment by members improved from Rs. 29·79 lakhs to Rs. 30·48 lakhs. Overdues at the end of the year increased from Rs. 310 lakhs or 74·7 per cent. to Rs. 325 lakhs or 80·4 per cent.

**Land Mortgage Banks.**

310. There were five land mortgage banks in operation at Mymensingh, Comilla, Pabna, Jessore and Suri. The total working capital of these banks increased from Rs. 30,820 to Rs. 2,02,113 and their membership from 617 to 1,087, the number of preference share-holders being 21 and that of ordinary share-holders being 1,066. The number of borrowing members was 484 as against only 65 of the previous year. The total amount of loan issued during the year was Rs. 1,90,300 as against Rs. 23,435 of the previous

year. The balance of loan outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 2,07,796 as against Rs. 23,380 of the previous year. In making advances of loans the banks temporarily utilised the admission fees and other miscellaneous receipts to be adjusted later on.

The total paid-up share capital was Rs. 17,750 as against Rs. 5,820 and the total borrowings from the Provincial Bank stood at Rs. 1,84,363 as against Rs. 25,000 of the previous year. No instalment to the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank was overdue.

The progress of the banks on the whole has been admittedly slow although the progress during the year under report is encouraging. Some of the main reasons for the slow progress are enumerated below :—

(*a*) High lending rate which could not be lowered as debentures bearing guarantee of Government for principal and interest could not be floated.

(*b*) Continuance of the economic depression and the consequent low repaying capacity of the applicants.

(*c*) Unwillingness of the non-member to join in the execution of the mortgage bonds.

(*d*) Inability to produce sureties by the principals.

(*e*) The introduction of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act which has raised a hope in the minds of the cultivators that better advantages may be available from the operation of the Act.

At the close of the year 1935-36, the total number (progressive) of loan applications received by all the banks was 2,628, as against 1,608, for a total amount of Rs. 13,29,086 as against Rs. 8,11,986 of the previous year. The banks investigated and considered 1,915 applications for a total amount of Rs. 9,67,341 and accepted 757 applications for loans amounting to Rs. 3,49,575 out of which Rs. 2,13,735 was actually advanced in 484 cases.

The total number of applications refused by the banks was 1,158 for an amount of Rs. 5,96,449. The applications were refused on various grounds as indicated below :—

| | | Number. | Amount. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Rs. |
| 1. | Uneconomic holding and unsatisfactory repaying capacity .. .. .. .. | 280 | 1,42,566 |
| 2. | Unsatisfactory conciliation .. .. .. | 100 | 50,690 |
| 3. | Unwillingness of co-sharers to join .. .. | 385 | 1,92,695 |
| 4. | Inability to produce sureties .. .. .. | 102 | 48,946 |
| 5. | Other grounds .. .. .. .. | 291 | 1,61,552 |

Out of the total loan advanced Rs. 1·97 lakhs was advanced for redemption of mortgages and prior debts. The total original debts of members receiving loans for the above purposes were Rs. 3·00 lakhs which was scaled down to Rs. 1·97 lakhs or about 65 per cent. by amicable settlement with creditors. The dues of the mahajans and others were reduced to 58 per cent. and those of the landlords to 95 per cent. of their claims.

The total quantity of agricultural land mortgaged to the banks for the loans issued is 3,730·46 acres valued at Rs. 5·81 lakhs in addition to other immovable properties mortgaged valued at ·73 lakhs. The total value of the property secured by mortgage was therefore Rs. 6·54 lakhs against a loan of Rs. 2·14 lakhs which is about 33 per cent. of the value of the property mortgaged and is therefore well within the margin of safety.

The net annual income from the properties mortgaged has been estimated at Rs. 1·05 lakhs which is roughly half of the total amount of loans issued.

The land mortgage banks have accommodated both small and big cultivators.

(*b*) Purchase and Sale Societies.

311. The number of these societies decreased from 80 of last year to 73, their membership from 13,693 to 13,510, and their total working capital from Rs. 7,94,395 to Rs. 7,80,289. The Central Paddy Sale Society at Calcutta handled 56,611 maunds of paddy during the year as against 112,102 maunds of last year. The abnormal shrinkage was principally due to the closing to traffic of the Circular Canal by the Irrigaiton Department during the paddy season. The land route, being circuitous and expensive, had to be abandoned and the society accordingly suffered a loss of Rs. 3,189. The Gosaba Jamini Rice Mills earned a profit of Rs. 1,340 against Rs. 3,623 of last year. The marked fall in profit was mainly due to competition by Rangoon rice and paddy in the Calcutta market. The Bakarganj Sunderban Central Sale Society continued to do well and earned a profit of Rs. 3,188. The Donovan Rice Mill which is an annexe of the Society worked for about six months and made a profit of Rs. 2,233. The Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society sold 1,473 maunds of *ganja* and 216 maunds of *bhang* as against 1,560 maunds and 212 maunds, respectively, of *ganja* and *bhang* in the previous year. It may be mentioned here that the society could not sell 50 per cent. of the *ganja* grown by the members and purchased by it. The reasons for the steady fall in the consumption of *ganja* have been explained in the previous reports. The society, however, is strengthening its reserves and continues to maintain its welfare and utilitarian activities out of its profits.

(c) Irrigation and Drainage Societies.

312. The number of these societies increased from 935 to 957, but their membership fell from 22,864 to 21,869. The total irrigable area served by these societies was 141,008 bighas as against 148,247 bighas of last year. The majority of these societies operated in the districts of Birbhum and Bankura and a small number in the district of Burdwan. The "Khelar Murakata" Irrigation Society in the district of Midnapore, which has been in a moribund condition for the last several years owing to internecine quarrels, has composed its dispute with the owner of the channel through the intervention of the Sadar Subdivisional Officer, Midnapore. The working of the society is now expected to be improved. The irrigation societies in the district of Howrah are doing good work and their members highly appreciate their utility. In Bankura the Salbund Co-operative Weir has not yet been taken over by Government pending final settlement of water rates with the members of the society. The Amjura Irrigation Society continues to be maintained by Government at the expense of the society. The irrigation channel supplied water to the members throughout the whole of the year and enabled them to grow the different kind of crops satisfactorily. The Kunkrajore scheme proved a failure but the Chamkura Jarisha Society has been functioning properly. The Dadpur Dowki Irrigation Channel, in the district of Birbhum, serves 10,000 bighas of land through 23 different villages and overflows to the Kandi subdivision where an equal area cultivated by non-members is irrigated at the expense of the society. An attempt is being made to induce the people thus benefited to join the society. In Khulna the Malek Proja Bandhu and the Kaliganj Bil Bundh Bandi Societies continue to do useful work and helped the members in irrigating their lands during drought. The demand for irrigation societies in the districts of Birbhum and Bankura continues unabated.

(d) Agricultural Associations.

313. The number of these association was 40 as in last year. The Bengal Home Crofters Association has been encouraging cultivation of garden vegetables in waste lands around the homesteads of members and making arrangements for their marketing at Calcutta. The Lalgarh Krishi Samiti in the district of Midnapore has at present restricted its activities to the crushing of sugarcane produced locally on a fixed *bani* (fee) and suffered a total loss of Rs. 3,073 from its start, of which Rs. 340 was incurred during the year under review. The Kishoreganj Agricultural Association in the district of Mymensingh worked at a loss. The Naogaon Agricultural Association sustained a heavy loss of Rs. 2,289 during the year.

(e) Production and sale societies.

314. The number of milk societies declined further during the year from 247 to 243. The milk producing societies affiliated to the Calcutta Milk Societies Union supplied milk valued at

Rs. 1,93,248 as against Rs. 2,05,379 of last year and earned an increased profit of Rs. 7,548 from Rs. 6,868 of last year. The Uttarpara Milk Society worked fairly well, but the management of the Khamargachi group of societies continues to be unsatisfactory. The position of the milk societies in Dacca, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions could not be improved owing chiefly to the abnormal fall in the price of milk. The Malda Sugar Mill has been working on open pan system and running its business on owned capital only. The profit earned increased from Rs. 833 to Rs. 1,223 during the year.

**(f) Cattle-breeding societies.**

315. The number of cattle-breeding societies continues to be 6 as in last year and could not be improved. The registration of any of these has not been cancelled as there is some prospect of their revival in view of the growing interest in rural uplift following the lead given by the Government of India.

**Non-agricultural: (a) Credit.**

316. The number of non-agricultural credit societies rose from 532 to 549, their membership from 211,012 to 226,566, and their working capital from Rs. 443 lakhs to Rs. 476 lakhs. The paid-up share capital also increased from Rs. 90·95 lakhs to Rs. 97·14 lakhs. The statutory reserve fund grew further from Rs. 28·89 lakhs to Rs. 32·04 lakhs, while other funds created out of profits rose to Rs. 12·67 lakhs against Rs. 10·17 lakhs of the previous year. Rs. 293 lakhs was loaned out to members against Rs. 263 lakhs of last year and recoveries from members rose from Rs. 228 lakhs to Rs. 257 lakhs. The overdues at the end of the year were Rs. 52·20 lakhs against Rs. 48·63 lakhs or 12·7 per cent. as in last year. The total profit amounted to Rs. 12·69 lakhs against Rs. 11·69 lakhs of the previous year. In the order of importance and successful working the Calcutta Urban Banks come foremost and the Chittagong Division a good second. The utility of these societies has been recognised by all concerned within and outside the movement and have proved a boon to their members in general and the wage earners in particular. Party faction and management by coteries are some of the prevalent vices in these societies.

The Serampore Society in the district of Hooghly has been involved in a defalcation case which is under police investigation. The Manager of the Midnapore People's Bank was prosecuted on a charge of defalcation to the extent of Rs. 21,612 and convicted. The bank was, however, able to meet its obligatory charges and to maintain public confidence. The criminal case against the directors of the Ghatal People's Bank resulted in conviction of the late chairman and one of the clerks of the bank. The future of the bank is still uncertain, and if measures for reconstitution fail to be effective, the bank will have to be wound up.

The credit societies among sweepers and menials are generally progressing well and have been of considerable service in converting their members to sober and thrifty habits and also in impressing on them the benefits of self-help and concerted action.

Stores and supplies societies.

317. The number of these societies increased slightly during the year from 43 to 44 and their membership from 5,208 to 5,352. The total sale, however, declined from Rs. 2·61 lakhs to Rs. 2·48 lakhs, but the profit earned increased from Rs. 2,196 to Rs. 2,754. The Bagerhat Trading Society in the district of Khulna continued to do good business and the Roy Stores at Kanchrapara and the Bengal Chemical Co-operative Stores at Calcutta also worked well. In the Burdwan Division the United Trading Society could not maintain its pace of progress owing to internal dissensions. The other stores in the division are more or less in a moribund condition. The only other successful store in the Province is the Sarda Police Training College Store in the district of Rajshahi.

Artisans' societies.

318. Owing to trade depressions, there is no prospect of overhauling these societies on a proper footing. In order to be alive some of them are being transformed into credit organisations among artizans.

Fishermen's societies.

319. The total number of these societies increased slightly from 105 to 107 and their membership from 3,846 to 4,159. In the Presidency Division the Captain Bheri Society continued to prosper. The value of fish sold was Rs. 10,825 against Rs. 6,444 of last year and earned a profit of Rs. 5,677, against Rs. 1,502 of the previous year. The society has also taken up various kinds of welfare work for the benefit of the members and has opened a primary school for their children. The Bidyadhari Spill Society has obtained a fresh lease of 5 years from Government and spent heavily on reclamation and improvement of the fishery. It has therefore incurred a loss of Rs. 8,822 on the year's working. The society could not take up the more profitable line of fish rearing owing to paucity of funds. Arrangement was, however, in progress for a substantial financial accommodation from the Provincial Bank. This society has great possibilities before it provided it can secure adequate financial backing. The Naliapur Dhibar Samity worked at a loss this year. The Fishermen's societies in the Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions are not at all working well. The Dhaleswar Meghna Padma Samity in the Chittagong Division could not do successful business during the year.

Weavers' societies.

320. The number of primary weavers' societies fell further from 325 to 323 and their membership from 5,908 to 5,725. The

Bagerhat Weaving Union, in the district of Khulna, after a long spell of losses, worked at a profit for the second year. In the Burdwan Division, the position of most of these societies continued to be unsatisfactory mainly because of the distress in the district of Bankura where the largest number of these societies exists. The societies in Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions also did not work well owing to trade depression. In the Chittagong Division, excepting the Mainamati and Kankapait societies, all others worked unsatisfactorily. In order to rehabilitate these societies by training the members in improved methods of weaving, dyeing, etc., and securing orders for textiles from the big consumers to keep the weavers provided with work and living, a skilled staff maintained out of the Government of India grant and composed of one weaving expert and a number of weaving supervisors have been allotted to all important weaving areas under the operation of Industrial Unions. A marketing officer with high technical qualifications, a designer and two canvassers for pushing up the sale of the finished goods of the Co-operative Weaving societies has also been appointed. The marketing officer exercises general supervision over the staff under the direction of the Registrar, secures orders from various sources, assisted by the expert designer who prepares patterns for the cottage weavers according to fashions in vogue and arranges for their disposal to the best advantage of the producers.

**Silk societies.**

321. The number of these societies remained at 77 as in last year. Their working capital rose from Rs. 91,764 to Rs. 94,639 and the profit from Rs. 475 to Rs. 943. The condition of these societies did not improve owing to the competition of foreign silk. The Jangipur Silk Association could not make much headway but worked at a small profit.

**Zamindari societies.**

322. No new society of this type was registered during the year. The Bengal Youngmen's Zamindary Society in the Presidency Division enjoys a sound financial position. It has in contemplation various activities consistent with its objects, but before taking them up the society has been consolidating its position by collecting all outstanding loans. Its scheme for the opening of an institution for training the unemployed young men in scientific agriculture and cottage industries mentioned in the last report has not therefore materialised. The society also proposes later on to start a Co-operative Agricultural Colony by consolidating lands within its zamindary. The Tamluk Zamindary Society, in the district of Midnapore, could not make sufficient progress owing to the low price of paddy, but managed to earn an increased profit during the year. Of the three colonisation

societies in Cox's Bazar, Badarkhali No. I and II societies have been amalgamated and are progressing steadily. The work of reclamation of Block No. III has been taken in hand, and when completed it will be able to colonise about 1,500 additional landless settlers. As the Chittagong Zilla Krishi Samity which was the liason body between these societies and the Provincial Bank has been placed in liquidation, the latter has agreed to take over their liabilities to the Krishak Samity and to finance them direct at a rate not exceeding 6¼ per cent. Government has also granted remission of three-fourths of the rent of Block No. I for the first 4 years and half rent for the next 4 years. As a result of these concessions the societies have been able to extend their activities towards rural uplift and welfare.

Anti-malarial and Public Health societies.

323. There was an increase in the number of these societies during the year from 931 to 985 and in their membership from 18,281 to 19,207. These societies generally worked indifferently and, excepting a few successful ones, have failed to carry out their objects. An attempt is being made to impress on the rural population the necessity and utility of these societies and special attention is being paid to their resuscitation.

Women's organisation.

324. The total number of these societies was 8 as in last year. The Nari Samabaya Bhandar continued to do good work, but no marked improvement was noticed in the working of the Talla Mahila Samiti. The Harinagar Mahila Samity in Ghatal did much useful service in spreading education among the local women. The Baptist Union Women's Society which has transferred its headquarters to Barisal worked at a small loss.

Relief societies.

325. The number of these relief and benefit societies during the year rose from 52 to 67, their membership from 16,767 to 17,644 and their working capital from Rs. 5,38,499 to Rs. 7,58,240. These societies have become very popular among wage-earners and are doing very useful work.

Rural Reconstruction societies.

326. There were 27 societies at the end of the year against 23 of the preceding year. An attempt is being made to revive activities of the Birnagar Rural Reconstruction Society which has almost ceased to function since the death of Rai Bahadur Nagendra Nath Banerjee, its principal promoter and donor. The Mulghar Rural Reconstruction Society is working more or less as an anti-malarial society, but has done good work. The societies in Bolpur group of Sriniketan-Viswabharati have maintained their usefulness, and their activities continued to be well directed. The Bogra Medical Society has pursued its activities further by opening two segregation wards for two epidemic diseases. The Brahmanbaria Rural Reconstruction Society has achieved remarkable success in eradicating water hyacinth from the subdivision

by concerted action. It has also adopted measures for rural uplift by supplying improved seeds, and lending the use of agricultural implements free of cost to the members and starting a demonstration farm. Facilities of irrigation by means of pumping machines have also been provided. The society is also imparting elementary education in sanitation, improved method of cultivation and home industry to its members by establishing an itinerant library.

**Rural reconstruction.**

327. Towards the close of the year signs were in evidence of growing interest of rural people in village welfare work. A preliminary investigation was taken up which revealed that there was a genuine desire among the rural masses in various areas for the improvement of their economic position working on co-operative principles and practices as also for renovating the conditions of villages by taking up suitable measures relating to sanitation, communication and education. A comprehensive scheme was, therefore, drawn up by the department for the organisation of a network of village reconstruction societies. It has been insisted in the scheme that every member of such a society should take to some subsidiary occupation such as kitchen gardening, poultry farming, fish rearing, cotton, wool or jute weaving for the improvement of his income and balancing the family budget. The programme of work includes establishment of a night school in the area of every society, a demonstration farm, a playground for out-door games and construction of a village hall as a meeting place of the members after their day's labour. The members have been directed to observe a co-operative day in every month in which they are required to attend to all public health works in the village by organising and combining voluntary labour of the villagers.

**House-building societies.**

328. The number of these societies was 21 as in last year. Of the two house building societies in Calcutta, the Corporation Housing Society has been arranging with the Corporation for suitable building sites. It has not yet therefore commenced work. The Suburban colony continues to progress by increasing the number of houses and extending roads. Besides, a sporting and a social club with reading room have been started by the society for its members. The high school maintained by the society became affiliated to the Calcutta University. The Char Fasson Housing Society worked well as before, but the Dacca Housing Society has stagnated. The Mymensingh Housing Society is trying to improve and has earned a nominal profit against a loss of last year. The Darjeeling Housing Society continues to work at a profit.

The Bengal Co-operative Insurance Society.

329. The Society is progressing steadily and during the year under review its business developed by nearly 73 per cent. and its policy funds by 50 per cent. over last year's figures. The society proposes to extend its business though cautiously to all parts of India, Burma and Ceylon.

Cattle Insurance Society.

330. No such societies are at present in operation in the Province.

Central Co-operative Anti-malarial Society.

331. The number of its constituent societies increased from 931 to 985. On the year's working, it has reduced its loss from Rs. 1,390 to Rs. 270. The society has maintained its anti-malarial activites and has to a certain extent succeeded in initiating the educated public in its own creed of improvement of sanitation and public health by concerted efforts.

Producers' Unions.

332. There were 14 producers union in operation during the year. Of these the Milk Societies' Union has improved its working and earned a profit. The Industrial Unions were generally in a bad way owing to trade depression and competition with mills. The scheme for the development of handloom industry financed by the Government of India has been put into operation and an expert staff, improved weaving apparatus and appliances have been supplied to each Union for manufacturing textiles according to designs and specifications in demand. As a result demonstrations of improved weaving have been held at various centres in the Province and a number of new designs have been introduced among the weavers. The Unions have also succeeded in obtaining orders for specific textile fabrics.

Central banks.

333. The number of Central banks remained at 118 as in last year. Their working capital rose from Rs. 517·45 lakhs to Rs. 518·11 lakhs but the number of affiliated societies went down during the year from 19,937 to 19,915. The paid-up share capital declined from Rs. 53·33 lakhs to Rs. 52·02 lakhs. The reserve funds rose from Rs. 50·73 lakhs to Rs. 56·54 lakhs, of which Rs. 28·91 lakhs represents the statutory reserve and Rs. 27·63 lakhs other common funds created out of profits against Rs. 26·44 lakhs and Rs. 24·29 lakhs, respectively, of last year. The total amount of owned capital was 20·9 per cent. of the working capital as against 20·1 per cent. of the previous year. Deposits from all sources diminished from Rs. 282·83 lakhs to Rs. 278·80 lakhs and loans from the Provincial and other banks from Rs. 122·71 lakhs to Rs. 121·83 lakhs. Loans to other banks and affiliated societies increased from Rs. 53·65 lakhs to Rs. 93·08 lakhs, and repayments by other banks and societies including renewals also increased from Rs. 62·92 lakhs to Rs. 102·24 lakhs, comprised of Rs. 72·69 lakhs from banks and Rs. 29·55 lakhs from societies, of which Rs. 12·98 lakhs represents recovery in cash

from societies. The total profits rose from Rs. 7·72 lakhs to Rs. 9·02 lakhs. The cost of management was Rs. 6·83 lakhs as in last year.

**Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank.**

334. The number of members of the Provincial Bank increased from 156 to 163 during the year. The working capital rose from Rs. 227·42 lakhs to Rs. 233·21 lakhs and the paid-up share capital from Rs. 16·68 lakhs to Rs. 16·70 lakhs. The reserve fund was further strengthened by the allocation of Rs. 78,000 making up a total of Rs. 5 lakhs as against Rs. 4·21 lakhs in last year. The special reserve was also increased from Rs. 11·71 lakhs to Rs. 15·56 lakhs. Deposits from members and others rose slightly from Rs. 194·79 lakhs to Rs. 195·95 lakhs. There was a marked increase in the issue and recovery of loans from Rs. 20·03 lakhs and Rs. 19·21 lakhs to Rs. 69·73 lakhs and Rs. 69·51 lakhs, respectively. This was due to renewal of outstanding loans. The bank had sufficient surplus to cover deposits and, in spite of the drastic reduction in the borrowing rates which was almost on a par with Government securities, no paucity of fresh deposits or renewals has been noticed.

**Bengal Co-operative Organization Society.**

335. The number of affiliated societies increased from 18,792 to 18,861. The society participated in the important agricultural and industrial exhibitions held in the Province during the year and also organised publicity lectures in different centres. Besides, two radio talks were delivered by the Assistant Secretary of the Society which were broadcast through the central station at Calcutta. Owing to difficulty of collection of subscription the society has been suffering from paucity of funds to meet the cost of management. Two journals, one in English and another in Bengali, continued to be published by the society.

**Co-operative training.**

336. A scheme for the establishment of a Co-operative Training class with a whole-time special staff of instructors for the training of departmental officers, the new recruits to the department, the Secretaries, Managers and the outdoor staff of co-operative societies as also for providing a refresher course for the Inspectors and Auditors throughout the year in batches, was under consideration by Government. The scheme was to be financed by a grant from the Government of India.

**Amendment of Co-operative Societies' Act.**

337. The necessity of an amendment of Co-operative Societies Act II of 1912 was keenly felt for some time with a view to removing the various legal and quasi-legal difficulties confronting the working of the societies as well as for ensuring better supervision and control by the Registrar over the administration of the societies, and Government are considering the introduction of a bill for this purpose.

# CHAPTER IX

## Public Works and Irrigation.

### Pubilc Works.

Charge.

338. During the year under review the administration of the Department continued to be in the hands of the Hon'ble Nawab Sir Mohiuddin Faroqui, KT., of Ratanpur. Mr. J. D. V. Hodge, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Agriculture, Industries and Irrigation Departments was Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department up to the 25th July 1935. He went on leave with effect from the 26th July 1935, after having made over charge of his office to Mr. H. S. E. Stevens, I.C.S., who held charge of the Department for the remaining period of the year. Mr. D. J. Blomfield, Superintending Engineer, continued to officiate as Chief Engineer up to the 14th November 1935. He made over charge of the office to Rai Sahib Manmohan Sen Gupta, Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer, on that date and went on leave with effect from the 15th November 1935. Mr. C. P. M. Harrison, the seniormost Superintending Engineer, on his return from leave, took over charge of the office of Chief Engineer from Mr. Sen Gupta on the 17th November 1935. Mr. C. P. M. Harrison was confirmed as Chief Engineer with effect from the 1st December 1935, *vice* Mr. W. J. Kerr, the permanent Chief Engineer, retired, and continued to hold charge of the office for the rest of the year. There were no serious accidents or unusual occurrences during the year under review.

Communication.

339. The total expenditure on communications during the year was Rs. 26,85,745 of which Rs. 1,63,865 was spent by the Government of India on Central Communications. The total length of metalled roads in the province (including Sikkim) rose from 3,642 miles to 3,818 miles and the length of unmetalled roads from 53,431 miles to 81,628 miles. These figures include 2,870 miles of metalled and 80,901 miles of unmetalled roads maintained from district and local funds, but exclude roads maintained by municipalities.

Original Works Road Development Fund.

340. The following works were completed during the year from Road Development Fund:—

(1) Widening the Barrackpore Trunk Road from Dum Dum crossing to Marshalls crossing; the length is about 4 miles.

(2) Reconstruction of Ghosepara Road with the exception of Ichhapur Khal Bridge.

(3) Improvement of Grand Trunk Road North from Golabari Road Junction to Harogunge Road in Howrah.

(4) Improvement of Grand Trunk Road passing through the French Settlement at Gourhatty.

The following works were still in progress during the year:—

(1) Reconstruction of Calcuta-Jessore Road from Barasat to Gaighata.

(2) Reconstruction of Satkhira-Navaran Road in the district of Jessore.

(3) Reconstruction of Mymensingh-Tangail Road from Kalihati to Tangail.

(4) Reconstruction of Goody's Tank Road in Comilla.

(5) Reconstruction of Dacca-Chittagong Trunk Road from Barkanta to Daudkhandi.

(6) Reconstruction of Pabna-Ishwardi Road.

(7) Reconstruction of Burdwan-Arambagh Road from 4th mile to 10th mile.

(8) Reconstruction of Chittagong-Arrakan Road.

(9) Preliminary arrangements in connection with the reconstruction of Kunti Bridge on Grand Trunk Road.

(10) Reconstruction of Grand Trunk Road from Shibpore Tramway terminus to Telkul Ghat Road Junction in Howrah district.

(11) Laying of 2-inch premix on the 9th mile of Diamond Harbour Road.

**Provincial Communications.**

341. Provincial communication schemes included laying of *premix* tar carpet on the Mayo Road from the Mayo Statue to the junction of Red Road on Calcutta Maidan and the reconstruction of reinforced arch bridge over the Sevok river at Sevok on the Sevok-Siliguri Road.

**Repairs.**

342. Special repairs were carried out on the Buri Barasan Bridge on the 7th mile of the Matigara-Naxalbari Road in the Darjeeling district.

**Buildings: Revenue and Expenditure.**

343. The revenue realised during the year amounted to Rs. 8·37 lakhs, of which Rs. 6·40 lakhs were Provincial including tolls on roads (Rs. ·46 lakhs) but excluding transfers from Central Road Development account (Rs. 10·30 lakhs).

The expenditure including that on Communications (Rs. 26·86 lakhs) totalled Rs. 1 crore 2·3 lakhs including about Rs. 19·33 lakhs for Establishment, Tools and Plant. Of this total, Rs. 7·35 lakhs were for Central Works, Rs. 9·13 lakhs for Provincial Works (Reserved) and Rs. 48·51 lakhs for Provincial Works (Transferred). Rs. ·54 lakhs were expended on contribution works; Rs. 14·45 lakhs on grant-in-aid and Rs. 2·99 lakhs on 60—Civil Works not charged to Revenue.

Central Works Buildings.

344. The following works were completed:—

(1) Water-supply in the residence of the Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax at Jalpaiguri.

(2) Water-supply in the residence of the Income Tax Officer at Jalpaiguri.

The following works were in progress:—

(3) Construction of a building for the office of the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, at Dacca.

(4) Reconstruction of the post office building at Magra.

Provincial Works, Buildings.

345. Rs. 29·13 lakhs were spent under the head "Transferred" and Rs. 3·73 lakhs under "Reserved." Education buildings accounted for Rs. 3·91 lakhs, buildings in connection with General Administration Rs. 6·80 lakhs, and buildings relating to Administration of Justice Rs. 2·51 lakhs.

Reconstruction in Darjeeling.

346. Of the several works completed the more important are the following:—

(1) Reconstruction of Government House, Darjeeling, (2) Internal wiring in concealed conduit system and installation of electric lights and other electrical appliances in the new Government House, Darjeeling, (3) Reconstruction of the Government High School building and Head Master's quarters at Darjeeling, (4) Reconstruction of certain buildings in, and perimeter wall of, the Jail at Darjeeling, (5) Reconstruction of the residence of the Superintendent of Police at Darjeeling, (6) Construction of a double storied Police Barrack below Victoria Hospital at Darjeeling.

Progress at Maijdi.

347. The construction of the following buildings at Maijdi in the district of Noakhali was also completed:—

(1) Jail buildings including perimeter wall and entrance gate, (2) Record room for Registration office, (3) Hospital building and quarters for Inspectors, etc., in the Reserve Police Lines, (4) Treasury and Guard House, (5) Subdivisional Officer's Court, (6) Public Works Department Subordinates' Rest House, (7) Police

Magazine, (8) Motor garages for Collector, District Judge, Subdivisional Officer and Civil Surgeon, (9) Civil Surgeon's office, (10) Registration office, (11) Constables' Barracks, (12) Latrines in the Police Lines, (13) Public Lavatory, and (14) Reserve office and godown in Police Lines.

**Other works.**

348. Elsewhere the following works were completed:—

(1) Providing water-supply connections to certain Government residential buildings at Jalpaiguri, (2) Construction of two temporary barracks for warders and additions to, and alterations in, the Civil Jail and Reserve Guard House, Central Jail, at Alipore, (3) Additions to, and alterations in, the Central Jail building at Alipore to make it suitable for confinement of a dangerous class of prisoners, (4) Construction of an emergency Landing Ground at Cox's Bazar, Chittagong.

**Works in progress.**

349. The following important works were in progress at the close of the year:—

(1) Converting the west barrack (No. 4) near the Dum Dum Special Jail "B" for purposes of a Central Jail, (2) Construction of the Belliaghata Police Section House, Calcutta, (3) Construction of the Sub-Treasury and Guard Room at Bhola in the district of Bakarganj, (4) Construction of the Reserve Police Lines at Comilla, (5) Providing a second storey over the Sadar Registration Office building at Barisal, (6) Construction of 41 cells for the dangerous class of Division II prisoners in the Central Jail at Dacca, (7) Construction of Settlement Office building at Dinajpur, (8) Construction of Settlement Officer's residence at Dinajpur, (9) Improvements to the first-floor lavatory and bathroom, Medical College, Calcutta, (10) Construction of a double-storied block of 32 cells in the Central Jail at Midnapore, (11) Construction of a hostel for Muhammadan students of the Krishnagar College, Nadia, (12) Construction of a constables' barrack in the police-station at Asansol, (13) Extension to the Police Office at Midnapore, (14) Conversion of a portion of the Constables' Training School at Berhampore into residential quarters for Subordinate Police Officers, district Murshidabad, (15) Construction of Civil Court building at Maijdi, district Noakhali, (16) Construction of Collector's record room at Maijdi, (17) Installation of electric lights in the Victoria Boys' School and Dow Hill Girls' School at Kurseong, (18) Installation of perimeter wall lighting and compound lights and also of lights and fans in the Jailor's quarters and office in the Midnapore Central Jail.

**Consulting Architect to the Government of Bengal.**

350. As was the case during the previous year on account of urgent work, again, mainly in connection with the rebuilding of New Government House, Darjeeling, it was found impossible to

cope with the work of this office with the present permanent staff. Government therefore sanctioned the employment of—

(1) one temporary architectural draftsman on Rs. 200 per mensem for one year from 14th January 1935;

(2) one temporary architectural draftsman on Rs. 140 per mensem for six months from 14th January 1935;

(3) one temporary draftsman for the year on Rs. 95 per mensem; and

(4) two temporary draftsmen for the year on Rs. 50 per mensem each.

Plans and drawings prepared.

351. Sketch plans and detailed drawings were prepared and supplied in connection with the following projects:—

(1) New office building, Alipore, (2) Post and Telegraph Office building, Ramna-Dacca, (3) Combined Gymnasium and Wrestling Shed, University Institute Calcutta, (4) Police Hospital at Army Clothing Factory Site, Alipore, (5) Proposed additions and alterations to Bengal Legislative Council Chamber, (6) Shelter for bus passengers, Calcutta Maidan, (7) Belliaghata Police Section House, Calcutta, (8) Additions to Port and Shipping Office, (9) Type Plan for Dog Ward, Veterinary Hospitals, (10) Additions to Town School, Burdwan, (11) New Government House, Darjeeling, and (12) New Customs House, Calcutta.

Railway administrations.

352. The following light railways are under control of this Government in so far as provision for their construction and management was made by Provincial Legislation:—

| | Gauge. Feet. | Gauge. Inches. | Length in miles. |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway .. | 2 | 0 | 51·07 |
| (2) Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarakeswar to Tribeni) .. .. | 2 | 6 | 33·27 |
| (3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway .. | 2 | 0 | 43·87 |
| (4) Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway | 2 | 0 | 19·75 |
| (5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway .. | 2 | 6 | 52·24 |
| Total .. | | | 200·20 |

All other railways in this province are under the direct control of the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board).

Surveys and constructions.

353. During the year, no surveys were sanctioned by the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board), and no new construction was undertaken, so far as Bengal is concerned.

Lines opened.

354. The Calcutta Chord Railway Line including the Willingdon Bridge at Bally was opened to passenger traffic during the year under review.

Lines closed.

355. The Jessore-Jhenidah Railway (36·75) was closed down during the year.

Mileage.

356. The total mileage of railways opened to traffic on 31st March 1936 was 3 462·55 miles.

## Irrigation.

Capital account.

357. The total capital expenditure of the department during 1935-36 was Rs. 5,26,020 after deducting receipts and recoveries on capital account amounting to Rs. 13,827 as against Rs. 2,48,024 in the previous year. The major portion of this capital outlay was on the Damodar Canal Project, only about Rs. 5,800 being spent on the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bil. Route.

Major projects: Damodar Canal.

358. The only important project which was under construction during the year under review is the Damodar Irrigation Canal. The work on the project which has been designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land, mostly for cultivation of paddy in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly, was started in 1926-27 and was practically completed during the year under review. The revenue account of the canal was opened from 1st April 1933 and the construction estimate closed from 30th September 1935. In August 1935, an unusually high flood in the river Damodar (the highest known since 1913) breached the Damodar Left Embankment in several places and inundated the countryside. The flood water made its way into the canal by breaching the bank of the canal system and caused considerable and serious damage to the main weir of the project called the Anderson Weir, necessitating repairs to the weir and heavy special repairs to protective works down stream of all the structures in the canal system. An estimate amounting to Rs. 12,98,208 was sanctioned and the special repair work taken up during the cold weather of 1935-36.

During the year under review the rainfall in the irrigable area of the Damodar Canal was insufficient and unequal in distribution and so there was a keen demand for canal water throughout the irrigation season. The total area actually irrigated by the canal was 132,278 acres as compared with 85,081

acres in the previous year. As in the previous year crop-cutting experiments were carried out in several mauzas which showed that the outturn of paddy in the irrigated areas was very satisfactory in comparison with that in the non-irrigated areas.

Other schemes.

359. The newly-constructed Bakreswar Irrigation Canal in the Bankura district irrigated an area of 6,489 acres as against 7,760 acres in the previous year. Owing to drought in the catchment area of Bakreswar river after the middle of September, it was not possible to irrigate all the leased area during the critical period of October, and consequently the crops in some fields suffered. The new locks and sluices on the Lower Kumar river were operated during the year and gave satisfactory result. The project for the construction of the Grand Trunk Canal to provide a shorter inland steamer route from Calcutta to East Bengal and Assam was held in abeyance. A capital expenditure of Rs. 9,629 (direct and indirect) was, however, incurred as in previous years on the upkeep of buildings on the acquired land and on petty establishment and tools and plant, with a return of Rs. 12,195 on account of receipts and recoveries on capital account.

Benal Development Bill.

360. The Bengal Development Bill was passed by the Bengal Legislative Council in 1935. It provides for the development of lands in Bengal and imposes a levy in respect of increased profits resulting from improvement works constructed by the Government. The legislation was the outcome of the suggestion in the Irrigation Department Committee's Report, 1930, that the cost of schemes financed by the Government out of loan funds should be met by means of a cess levied at a flat rate on the total area benefited. The Act (the Bengal Development Act XVI of 1935) which came into force from 23rd January 1936 will be applicable to the areas covered by the newly-constructed Damodar Canal and the Bakreswar Canal.

Revenue account.

361. The expenditure on revenue account during the year amounted to Rs. 25,94,249, of which Rs. 4,22,552 were spent on irrigation works proper, the principal items being the Midnapore Canal, the Bakreswar Canal, the Damodar and Eden Canals and the contour surveys in Western and Central Bengal. The expenditure on the Midnapore Canal was Rs. 1,31,834 which included Rs. 43,691 for maintenance and repairs and Rs. 87,706 for overhead charges. The expenditure on the Bakreswar Canal was Rs. 12,422, while that on the Damodar Canal including the Eden Canal amounted to Rs. 2,15,993. The administrative approval of Government was accorded to contour surveys of certain areas in Central and Western Bengal being undertaken at an estimated

cost of Rs. 1,46,000 as it is expected that from such survey, projects and schemes will emerge in the near future which will produce a revenue under the Bengal Development Act.. The survey for which a programme of 3 years was drawn up commenced from the cold season of 1936 and a sum of Rs. 28,186 was spent during 1935-36. The rest of the expenditure on revenue account was on navigation, embankment and drainage works. The expenditure on navigation was mainly for (1) upkeep of the five suction dredgers, (2) maintenance of the Hijli Tidal Canal, (3) maintenance of the existing steamer and boat routes from Calcutta to Eastern Bengal and Assam, including the reconstruction of the bridges over the Calcutta Canals and Tolly's Nala to the cost of which the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Calcutta Corporation contributed in certain cases, and (4) conservancy of some of the principal navigable rivers of the province such as the Ganges, the Dhalleswari and the Buriganga. The expenditure on the Hijli Tidal Canal, the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, the Sunderbans Steamer Route and the Madaripur Bil Route was Rs. 1,32,212, Rs. 5,55,017, Rs. 47,188 and Rs. 1,82,085, respectively, as compared with Rs. 58,724, Rs. 6,27,712, Rs. 54,000 and Rs. 2,26,053, while the cost of upkeep of the dredgers amounted to Rs. 92,915 as against Rs. 80,432 in the previous year. There was a marked decrease in the working expenses of the principal navigation canals except the Hijli Tidal Canal. The increased expenditure on the latter was mainly due to the construction of a sluice at Kalinagar for improving the drainage in that locality. Out of the 5 suction dredgers, 4 were laid up throughout the year, the dredger "Foyers" only being employed on dredging the Lower Kumar river, the Haturia Shoal, the Meghna Shoal and the Mongalpur and Haridaspur Shoals. To avoid heavy maintenance charges on these dredgers, endeavours were made by advertisement both in India and abroad to sell the dredgers "Burdwan" and "Cowley," but no buyers were found. It has since been decided to sell these two dredgers by parts as scrap.

The total revenue receipts and working expenses of the department during the year were Rs. 13,78,369 and Rs. 25,94,249, respectively, as against Rs. 11,40,766 and Rs. 26,19,766 in the previous year. The appreciable increase of over Rs. 2,30,000 of revenue was due to increased collection of water rates from the Damodar Canal area, where, as already stated in consequence of of a keen demand for canal water throughout the irrigation season, more area came under lease than in the previous year. The area irrigated from the Bakreswar Canal slightly decreased on account of non-supply of water in the month of October due to drought in the catchment area of the Bakreswar river as already explained, and consequently the receipt was about Rs. 2,000 less than that in

the previous year. The yields from the Midnapore Canal show no sign of improvement, although the irrigated area of the canal increased to some extent during the year as compared with the previous year. This is possibly due to the bad economic condition of the raiyats in this tract as stated in the previous year's report. The causes of this decline in revenue from the canal are, however, being further investigated. The receipt from the Hijli Tidal Canal was about Rs. 30,000 more than that in the previous year. The financial results of other navigation canals were somewhat favourable as, though the receipts from these canals were on the decrease due to continued trade depression, the working expenses were considerably less than those in the previous year.

Schemes administratively approved.

362. Owing to financial stringency it was not possible to undertake any of the major schemes already administratively approved, and the policy of Government has still perforce been restricted to smaller schemes of local benefit. The Ghuznavi Cut—a channel connecting the Mathabhanga river with the Nabaganga near Meherpur constructed in 1933 by the District Board of Nadia with a contribution from Government and the Bejoy Cut—to flush the Bhairab-Kabadak river by means of a junction cut from the Mathabhanga at Joynagar carried out by the District Board of Nadia in 1935—are instances of schemes of this nature. The Ghuznavi Cut operated successfully during the year but the Bejoy Cut did not function satisfactorily owing to the late opening of the cut and also to the existence of obstructions in the bed of the Bhairab-Kabadak river. Attempts are being made to remove these obstructions.

Rural development grant.

363. An amount of Rs. 3,03,000 was allocated to this Department out of the Government of India grant of about Rs. 16,00,000 to this province for rural development. The amount was meant for executing small drainage and flushing schemes to improve rural conditions. Accordingly schemes of this nature were selected in some of the districts of Bengal in consultation with the district authorities and district board during the year under review. In some districts such schemes have already been completed in others they are in progress, while in several districts the schemes are under preparation.

Flushing schemes.

364. The free flushing of the malaria-stricken areas at Narain-garh, Pingla-Kotai and Kola-Panskura in the Midnapore district with the water of the Midnapore Canal was continued during the year. The area actually flushed covered 11,020 acres of land. The result was on the whole satisfactory.

Flushing of the Gobranulla by admitting water from the Kalkali river through the Gobra Cut, and of the Uttampur Cut

connecting the Jalangi river at Uttampur with the Bhairab river at Natua, was also carried out during the flood season with a satisfactory result.

**Embankments.**

365. The Department maintained about 1,290 miles of embankments during the year. The policy of gradually abandoning those embankments which by experience have been found to be injurious to the country by obstructing the free discharge of flood water was continued and a length of 2 miles 4,020 feet of existing embankments was abandoned. The total amount spent on maintenance of embankment and drainage works such as Mograhat drainage works, Rajapur drainage works, etc., was Rs. 9,00,895, as against Rs. 8,99,867 in the previous year.

**Protective works.**

366. The Department has also to deal with the protection of towns from river erosion. During the year under review the river dealt with was the Dharla at Kurigram. Some years back the river abandoned its old course and developed a new one resulting in very rapid erosion at Kurigram where considerable land and property were absorbed and the existence of the subdivisional town was also threatened. Accordingly during the year protective measures were undertaken at a cost of Rs. 18,431 to save the town. There was also erosion at Chandpur and Narayanganj and those two sites were kept under observation.

**Surveys and investigations.**

367. The Department also undertakes surveys and investigations with a view to examining the feasibility of working out schemes for irrigation and drainage purposes.

It also conducts discharge observations and collects hydraulic data of all important rivers. Apart from starting works on the contour survey of Central and Western Bengal already alluded to, many important surveys were carried out during the year of which the following were the chief:—

(1) Survey and borings in connection with the scheme for flushing the area north-west of Bhagwangola retired line, (2) Survey of the area between Chalan bil and Fuljore bridge, (3) Special survey for the alignment of a cut west of Kendua village to drain Tildanga area, (4) Survey of the Darkeswar Reservoir Project, (5) Survey of the Test line for the More main canal, (6) Survey of the Reservoir area for the More Reservoir Project, (7) Aerial survey of the Padma from Faridpur to Haturia, (8) Survey of the old Brahmaputra river, (9) Survey of the river Attrabanka, and (10) Survey of the river Gumti in the district of Tippera. Besides, gauge readings and discharges of important rivers in North Bengal and hydraulic condition in the Malda district were observed.

368. The following is a list of important works under execution or in charge of this Department:— Works maintained by the department.

(1) The Damodar Canal Project.

(2) The Bakreswar Canal Project.

(3) Locks and sluices in the Lower Kumar river and the Madaripur Bil Route.

(4) Maintaining the Midnapore Canal.

(5) Maintaining the Hijli Tidal Canal.

(6) Maintaining the Calcutta and Eastern Canals system, including Tolly's Nala and Kaorapukur khal.

(7) Constructing and maintaining the bridges over the Circular and New Cut Canals and Tolly's Nala.

(8) Maintaining the Sundarbans Steamer Route.

(9) Maintaining the Madaripur Bil Route and the Lower Kumar river.

(10) Maintaining five big suction dredgers.

(11) Maintaining the Eden Canal.

(12) Maintaining the Amjor Weir.

(13) Maintaining the Salbund Weir.

(14) Maintaining the Orissa Coast Canal lying within the Province of Bengal.

(15) Maintaining the Nadia rivers.

(16) Maintaining the Magrahat Drainage Works including the Diamond Harbour sluice of 30 vents which is the largest work of its kind in this province.

(17) Maintaining the Jaboona Drainage Project.

(18) Maintaining the Amta Drainage Project.

(19) Maintaining the Nowee-Sunthi Drainage Project.

(20) Maintaining the Arool Bil Drainage Project.

(21) Remodelling the Hoorhoora and Buxi khals.

(22) Maintaining the Rajapur and Burrojola Drainage Works.

(23) Maintaining Dankuni Drainage Works.

(24) Maintaining Bullee Bil Drainage Works.

(25) Maintaining Argowal Drainage Works.

(26) Maintaining the Arapanch Drainage Works.

(27) Bandalling the Bhagirathi river.

(28) Dredging shoals in the Lower Kumar, Madhumati and Attrabanka rivers.

(29) Maintaining the brick-mattress at Sirajganj.

(30) Protecting the Narayanganj town from erosion by the Sital Lakhya khal.

(31) Survey and investigation of various irrigation, navigation and drainage projects.

(32) Improving the Lohajung river.

(33) Maintaining the Sarda revetment.

(34) Maintaining 1,290 miles of embankments in the districts of 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Burdwan, Hooghly and Tippera.

(35) Conservancy of Ganges from Rajmehal to Goalundo.

(36) Bandalling the Dhalleswari and Buriganga rivers.

The last two works are carried on by the Joint Steamer Companies on behalf of this Department.

# CHAPTER X.

## Public Health and Medical Relief.

### Public Health.

[Report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1935.]

General health conditions.

369. The provincial birth rate for 1935, as compared with that of the previous year (calculated according to the census of 1931), showed an increase of 11·6 per cent., but the death rate showed a decrease of 3·8 per cent. Compared with the quinquennial average, both the birth and death rates of 1935 showed an increase of 18·5 and 1·8 per cent., respectively. The rate of natural increase was 10·0 per mille against 5·7 in 1934. Bengal recorded a lower birth rate than all other provinces, excepting North-West Frontier Province and Assam. Her death rate was also higher than these two provinces and Burma and lower than the remaining other provinces. All the districts of Bengal, except Calcutta, showed an excess of births over deaths. The infant mortality rate in 1935 was 158·5 per mille of births against 189·2 in the previous year. Compared with the mean rate for the previous decennium, all the districts, excepting Bakarganj, Chittagong and Noakhali, showed a decrease in their infant mortality rates. The general death rates from cholera, small-pox, fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa, respiratory diseases, injuries and other causes in 1935 as compared with those for 1934 are shown below:—

| | 1934. | 1935. |
|---|---|---|
| Cholera .. .. .. | 1·0 | 1·2 |
| Small-pox .. .. .. | 0·2 | 0·15 |
| Fevers .. .. .. | 15·3 | 14·1 |
| Dysentery and diarrhœa .. .. | 1·1 | 1·0 |
| Respiratory diseases .. .. | 1·7 | 1·7 |
| Injuries .. .. .. | 0·4 | 0·4 |
| Other causes .. .. .. | 3·8 | 4·0 |

Registration and verification of vital events.

370. During the year 1935, altogether 796 persons were prosecuted for not reporting births and deaths, of whom 591 were convicted. The system of registration, collection and transmission of vital statistics still continued to work unsatisfactorily. The experiment with the alternative system of collection and

consolidation of the union board returns by the sanitary inspectors of the rural health circles continued in the districts of Birbhum, Nadia, Pabna and Tippera with satisfactory results. This system was extended in 1935 to the districts of Midnapore, Dacca and Mymensingh. Another experiment with simple forms also continued in the district of Bankura.

Epidemic diseases : (*a*) Cholera.

371. Cholera claimed 59,605 deaths in 1935 against 50,742 in 1934. The death rate from this disease thus showed an increase of 20 per cent. It was also 20 per cent. higher than the average of the previous quinquennium. 5·3 per cent. of the total provincial deaths in 1935 were due to cholera, as against 4·3 per cent. in 1934. Compared with the previous decennium, the death rates from cholera were higher in February, March and July to September, but lower in all other months, except June, in which the death rate was the same as for the previous decennium. The districts of the 24-Parganas, Howrah and Noakhali suffered most from cholera, while among the towns, Jhalakati (Bakarganj) and Halisahar (24-Parganas) were the worst sufferers. The total number of anti-cholera inoculations performed during the year was 2,329,326 against 2,106,269 in the preceding year. One lakh eighty-two thousand one hundred and twelve wells and 54,164 tanks were disinfected against cholera, in addition to 16,895 river-ghats, 82,631 houses and 591 *dobas*. Inoculation of pilgrims and educative propaganda work were carried out as in the previous year and departmental assistance was given to local bodies in anti-cholera work.

(*b*) Small-pox.

372. In 1935, 7,548 deaths were due to small-pox in the province, against 8,296 in 1934, yielding an annual death rate of 15 per 100,000 against 20 in 1934 and 20 the mean of the previous quinquennium. As in the previous year, small-pox accounted for ·7 per cent. of the total provincial mortality in 1935. The highest monthly mortality rate from small-pox (2·4 per 100,000) occurred in April, May and December and the lowest (0·4 per 100,000) in October. As in the previous two years, Calcutta had the worst of small-pox deaths in 1935 also. Jessore, Khulna and Darjeeling were the least affected districts. The respective death-rates from small-pox in towns and rural areas were 60 and 10 per 100,000, against 40 and 10 in 1934, showing an increase of 50 per cent. in towns and remaining the same in the rural areas. During the year 5·3 per cent. of the total provincial small-pox mortality occurred among infants below one year and 12·1 per cent. among children between one and ten years of age, against 4·5 and 11·6 per cent., respectively, in 1934.

Fevers.

373. There were 705,628 deaths from fevers in Bengal in 1935 with a death rate of 14·1 per mille, against 764,492 deaths with a

death rate of 15·3 per mille in 1934. Fevers accounted for 62·4 per cent. of the total provincial mortality, against 64·9 per cent. in the previous year. Compared with the previous year, there was a general decrease of death rate from all kinds of fevers in 1935, except kala-azar, in which there was an increase of 20·7 per cent.

Malaria.

374. Malaria was responsible for 342,955 deaths yielding a death rate of 6·9 per mille in 1935, against 387,191 deaths and a death rate of 7·8 per mille in 1934. The number of deaths thus decreased by 44,236 with a corresponding fall of 11·5 per cent. in the malaria death rate. This disease accounted for 48·6 per cent. of the total fever mortality and 30·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Compared with the previous year, five districts showed increased and twenty-one districts decreased death rates, while Khulna recorded the same rate. The incidence was highest in Jessore, although the death rates show the highest mortality in Rajshahi. The towns registered 2,318 and the rural areas 340,637 malaria deaths, with death rates of ·7 and 7·3 per mille, respectively. Compared with 1934, the death rate decreased in towns by 12·5 and in the rural areas by 12·0 per cent. in 1935. Forty towns returned rates above the provincial urban average for malaria (·7 per mille). As in the previous year, Kotchandpur returned once more the highest rate (9·5), followed by Dhulian (8·4). During the year 7,781 lbs. of quinine were sold through post offices against 8,589·1 lbs. in 1934. Twenty districts showed a reduction in the sale of quinine in comparison with the previous year. Of these, only two districts (Tippera and Jalpaiguri) showed a slight increase in their fever indices. The average sale of quinine per head of population was highest in Chittagong as in the previous years. Ludlowii surveys in several places in and on the outskirts of Calcutta and the experimental anti-malaria scheme with quinine and plasmochin in rural areas, were continued during 1935. The Sailihat anti-malaria scheme also continued during the year.

Kala-azar.

375. The provincial death rate from kala-azar was ·35 per mille, as against ·29 per mille in the previous year. Compared with 1934, the death rate in all Bengal towns decreased by 11·1 per cent. and in Calcutta by 23·5 per cent. In the rural areas, however, the death rate increased by 20 per cent. Among the towns, the highest mortality rate from kala-azar (1·3 per mille) was registered in Jessore. Forty-eight towns recorded no death from kala-azar. This disease accounted for 2·5 per cent. of fever deaths and 1·5 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 1·9 and 1·2 per cent., respectively, in 1934. During the year 138,274 kala-azar cases were treated at the various kala-azar

centres and other medical institutions in the province, against 121,142 and 129,539 during the preceding two years. The number of such cases increased in 13 districts and decreased in 14. The increase in the districts of Rangpur, Bogra, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Noakhali and Tippera was phenomenal.

**Enteric fever, measles, relapsing fever, influenza and other fevers.**

376. Compared with the previous year, the death rate from enteric fever in 1935 showed a decrease of 10·5 per cent. and that from measles also a decrease of 12·5 per cent. During the year 1·2 and ·5 per cent. of the provincial fever deaths and ·8 and ·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality were respectively due to enteric fever and measles. The deaths reported from relapsing fever in 1935 numbered 8 only against 2,720 in 1934. The low mortality returned in 1935 from this cause is the result of a check over the registration of these deaths, as true relapsing fever is very rare in Bengal. Most of the deaths returned heretofore as due to relapsing fever were not cases of true relapsing fever. They were probably due to either relapsing malarial fever or other fevers in which relapses were a notable feature. Influenza being a kind of fever is included in the heading of "fever" from the year 1935, instead of "respiratory diseases" under which it was formerly grouped. Compared with the previous year, the deaths from influenza showed a decrease of 12·3 per cent. Other fevers accounted for 329,545 deaths with a death rate of 6·6 per mille in 1935, as against 346,119 deaths with a death rate of 6·9 per mille in 1934.

**Plague.**

377. In Bengal two deaths from plague occurred in the rural areas of Burdwan in March.

**Dysentery and diarrhœa.**

378. Dysentery accounted for 27,349 and diarrhœa 24,581 deaths in 1935, making a total of 51,930 and yielding a death rate of 1·0 per mille against a total of 53,947 deaths and a death rate of 1·1 per mille in 1934. As in the previous year, these two diseases were responsible for 4·6 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. The death rate decreased by 9·1 per cent. against the previous year but increased by 11·1 per cent. against the last quinquennial average. The district of Darjeeling returned the highest number of deaths, followed by Howrah, while Malda showed the lowest number of deaths. The provincial urban death rate from dysentery and diarrhœa was 2·0 per mille in 1935 against 2·2 in the previous year. In Calcutta and in rural areas it decreased by 10·3 and 2·0 per cent., respectively. Among the towns, the highest death rate from these two diseases combined was returned from Ramjibanpur, followed by Khirpai. Barrackpore and Baruipur, both in the 24-Parganas district, returned the lowest rate of ·2 per mille each.

379. Respiratory diseases were responsible for 84,868 deaths in 1935 with a death rate of 1·7 per mille, against 85,113 deaths, with a death rate of 1·7 per mille in 1934, showing a reduction of 245 in the number of deaths but no change in the death rate. Compared with the previous year, the death rate from pneumonia rose from 48·18 to 49·42 per cent. of the total provincial mortality from respiratory diseases. As regards phthisis and other respiratory diseases, the mortality rates rose from ·30 and ·50 to ·33 and ·53 per mille, respectively. In 1935, 7·5 per cent. of the total provincial mortality was due to respiratory diseases. Pneumonia kept up its progress in 1935 with an excess of 932 deaths over those of 1934. Phthisis accounted for 16,524 and other respiratory diseases for 26,406 deaths in 1935. Respiratory diseases.

380. Compared with the previous year, the total number of deaths from injuries decreased in 1935 by 254. There was a decrease of 421 under snake-bites and attacks of wild animals and of 47 under rabies, while the number of deaths from wounds and accidents increased by 175 and from suicide by 39. Injuries accounted for 1·9 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Of the total deaths in urban areas (1,762), 744 or 42·2 per cent. were registered in Calcutta alone. The rural areas returned 20,028 deaths in 1935 against 20,389 in the previous year. During the year 200,056 deaths were registered in the Presidency as having been due to "all other causes." Of these, 26,629 occurred in towns and 173,427 in the rural areas. Injuries.

381. During the year 1935, the city and the port of Calcutta were free from plague infection and hence no routine disinfection of clothing and bedding of the Asiatic and African crews and of third class deck passengers of ships leaving for any port beyond British India was enforced. There were 3 deaths in hospitals among the European seamen who arrived at this port, as compared with 8 deaths in the previous year. The total number of deaths among Asiatic seamen reported by the police was 178, of which 3 resulted from cholera, 1 from small-pox, 68 from fever, 6 from heart-failure, 38 from drowning, 3 from burning, 22 from accidental fall and injuries, 2 from murder, 1 from hanging, 1 from suicide, 2 from poisoning, 11 from natural causes, and 20 from unknown causes. No ship with infectious diseases on board was reported to have arrived at this port during the year 1935. Fourteen sea-going vessels, 28 inland steamers, flats and launches and 29 lighters, *bhars* and *dinghis* were disinfected during 1935. Fifty-one ships were fumigated with the Clayton apparatus. In almost all cases ships' provisions were found in order and passed by the Calcutta Port Health Department. Of the 811 rats caught General sanitation in the ports: (*a*) Calcutta.

in the port and examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory, none was found to have plague infection. In all, 934 persons were vaccinated.

(*b*) Port of Chittagong.

382. The general sanitation of the port of Chittagong was satisfactory. Only one case of cholera occurred on board a vessel lying in the port. The patient, a relative of the crew of the vessel, died before any information was received by the Chittagong Port Health Department. Twenty-one European seamen and 15 Asiatic seamen were treated in hospital during the year. There was only one death among the latter but none among the former. One hundred and forty-six seamen and six crews were vaccinated and five ships were partially disinfected and fumigated.

Public Health Laboratories : (*a*) Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

383. During the year 5,108 samples of water (1,745 chemically and 3,363 bacteriologically), 1,056 samples of sewage and 7,341 samples of food articles were examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory at Calcutta. About 32·3 per cent. of mustard oil, 44·8 per cent. of ghee, 65·7 per cent. of milk, 4·7 per cent. of *ata* and wheat flour, 19·0 per cent. of tea, 11·1 per cent. of *chhana* and 92·7 per cent. of *dahi* samples from district boards and 38·3 per cent. of mustard oil, 44·7 per cent. of ghee, 65·7 per cent. of milk, 2 per cent. of *ata* and wheat flour, 25 per cent. of tea, 40 per cent. of *dahi* and 77·7 per cent. of butter samples from municipalities, were found adulterated. A larger number of mustard oil samples was found adulterated in 1935 than in the previous year, while the adulteration of milk underwent a slight decrease. Compared with the previous year, the adulteration of ghee increased in the municipal, but slightly decreased in the rural, areas. On the whole, mustard oil received more than its due share of attention among the common food articles in the Bengal dietary. But although increasing numbers of samples of mustard oil are being sent by the local bodies for analysis from year to year, this has as yet failed to check the adulteration of this common food article. The adulteration of milk and milk products which are the most important food articles in Bengal has not yet been controlled to any appreciable extent by action hitherto taken by the local bodies under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, whereas the adulteration of *ata* and tea appears to have actually increased. Seizure of food articles under the law must, therefore, still considerably increase before any satisfactory check on the adulteration can be expected and the increasing analytical work can be dealt with by the establishment of a public health laboratory in every district.

(*b*) Dacca Branch Laboratory.

384. During the year 1,566 samples of water (373 chemically and 1,193 bacteriologically), 336 samples of sewage and 4,648

samples of food-stuffs were examined at the Dacca Public Health Laboratory; and 44 per cent. of mustard oil, 82 per cent. of milk, 55 per cent. of ghee, 84 per cent. of *dahi*, 8 per cent. of *ata* and wheat flour and 14 per cent. of tea samples from district boards and 31 per cent. of mustard oil, 33 per cent. of milk, 49 per cent. of ghee, 50 per cent. of *dahi*, 89 per cent. of butter and 8 per cent. of *ata* and wheat flour samples from municipalities, were found adulterated. It appears that milk and milk products were as widely adulterated as in the previous years and the local bodies followed the same wrong policy of not paying well adjusted attention to the detection of adulteration of milk and milk products which are the most important food articles for people of all ages.

(c) Bengal Excise Laboratory.

385. During 1935, 8,975 samples received from the Excise and the Police Departments were examined at the Bengal Excise Laboratory. Of these, 6,558 were of spirituous medicinal preparations, 26 of country spirit, *pachwai* and *tari*, 90 of brandy, beer, rum, gin, etc., 19 of water, 299 of instruments, 2 of salt, 624 distellery samples, 1,275 court case samples, 61 miscellaneous and opinions given on various technical questions numbered 21.

(d) Bengal Vaccine Laboratory.

386. The quantity of anti-cholera vaccine manufactured at the Bengal Vaccine Laboratory in 1935 was 2,886,975 cubic centimeters. A balance of 196,275 cubic centimeters was in stock at the end of 1934. A total of 2,760,810 cubic centimeters of the vaccine, of which 2,689,025 cubic centimeters was free and 71,785 cubic centimetres on payment, was issued by the Bengal Public Health Department during the year.

School hygiene.

387. Two hundred and twenty-seven schools were visited in 1935 by the medical officers who examined 18,228 scholars. The rural sanitary inspectors also examined 172,032 pupils in 5,595 schools.

Dai-training.

388. One hundred and five *dai* training classes were conducted in 1935, in which 1,226 pupil *dais* were trained by 105 qualified lecturers. A total of 979 certificates and 140 maternity outfits were awarded to trained *dais*.

Fairs and festivals.

389. During 1935, a few cases of cholera occurred at the Rathjatra *mela* at Mahesh in the Hooghly district of Burdwan Division. In the Rajshahi Division cholera broke out at the Patiram fair in the Dinajpur district without any death. In the Chittagong Division, two cases of cholera were detected among the boatmen in the Dalalbazar Jhulan *mela* in the Noakhali district, while 27 deaths from cholera were reported from the Chittagong Hill Tracts on the occasion of the Chakma Chief's installation in March 1935. In the Presidency and Dacca Divisions two

biggest *melas,* namely, Ganga Sagar *mela* in the 24-Parganas district and the Nangalbundh *mela* in the Dacca district are held every year. During 1935, 15 cases with 5 deaths from cholera, 66 cases of dysentery and diarrhœa, 104 cases of fever and 86 cases of injuries and accidents were reported from the Ganga Sagar *mela,* while only two cases of cholera occurred at the Nangalbundh *mela.* Necessary medical and sanitary arrangements were made in all cases.

**Septic tank latrines.**

390. Plans of 23 septic tank latrines and of 4 activated sludge plants were approved and 325 inspections were made during 1935. In all 1,188 samples of effluents were chemically examined, of which 1,056 at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory and 132 on the spot. Health posters and leaflets were supplied by the Bengal Public Health Department for distribution and display in the mill areas and remedial measures were suggested for nuisances complained of by the mill authorities and the public.

**Health propaganda.**

391. As usual, the twelve cinema parties under the Bengal Public Health Department carried on their health propaganda work throughout the year, and held as many as 1,680 cinema shows and lectures, which were attended by approximately 1,964,305 people. The parties also rendered direct assistance to about 100 exhibitions in the mufassal and 30 in Calcutta. One of the cinema parties toured with the Government exhibition van. The experimental propaganda through radio continued during the year. About 60,000 leaflets and 20,000 posters on public health subjects were distributed and six new films on "Mother and Child," "Small-pox and its prevention," "Cattle Welfare," "Removal of Water Hyacinth," "Re-excavation of Canals" and "Silver Jubilee in Calcutta and Comilla" were prepared during the year.

**Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas.**

392. A total of 24 health officers and 101 sanitary inspectors were employed in the municipalities outside Calcutta. All the district boards were also provided with fully qualified health officers. The Bengal rural public health organisation scheme continued to work satisfactorily in 25 districts. All the 575 health circles in the various districts worked as usual with trained sanitary inspectors and a few assistant health officers.

## Vaccination.

393. During the year 1935-36, a record number of vaccinations, 9,114,092 on 9,106,830 persons, were performed in the whole province against 6,896,371 on 6,791,962 persons, showing an increase of 2,217,721 operations over the previous year.

2,907,210 primary vaccinations and 6,206,882 re-vaccinations were recorded during the year under review against 2,635,546 and 4,260,825, respectively, during the preceding year. Increase has been noticed on all heads including the number of children successfully vaccinated under one year of age and one year and under six years. In comparison with the previous year, vaccinations during the recess were increased by 753,382 operations. 241·3 per mille of available infant population in the province were successfully vaccinated during the year against 236·6 in the previous year. This increase was noticed only in 7 districts. The infant vaccinations in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Bakarganj are much neglected. If the condition does not improve, a severe epidemic is expected to recur in the near future. Municipalities in this respect recorded a satisfactory progress this year. The total number of operations performed during the year 1935-36 was 7,309,300 in the rural areas, 1,376,293 in the municipalities and 428,499 in the tea gardens, factories, steamers, railways and jails, against 6,144,000, 589,707 and 162,664, respectively, in the previous year. It is a matter of great satisfaction that all agencies exerted their utmost to meet the serious small-pox situation of the province by vaccinating the people within their jurisdiction. Decrease was noticed only in six districts—Mymensingh, Rangpur, Bankura, Bogra, Jalpaiguri and Pabna. The mortality from small-pox was higher than that of the previous year—the ratio per mille of population being ·42 against ·13 of the previous year. Although the disease prevailed epidemically in some districts, but in comparison with the epidemic years of 1926-27 to 1928-29 the mortality rate was lower. Calcutta with 3,443 deaths stood first in the list of increase and is followed by the districts of Murshidabad (3,038), Dacca (2,951), Howrah (2,052), Midnapore (1,238), 24-Parganas (1,273), Hooghly (1,154) and in other districts it was below 1,000. Only in four districts—Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna and Mymensingh—the mortality rate was lower than that of the previous year. The total cost of vaccination in 1935-36 was Rs. 459,373-3-3 against Rs. 449,249-1, showing an increase of Rs. 10,124-2-3 in the whole expenditure. The demand for vaccine lymph was heavier but to prevent wastage 3,043,365 grains of vaccine lymph were manufactured during the year, against 3,177,788 and 4,190,558 grains during the two preceding years. With a balance of 6,342,610 grains in hand the total issue of lymph to all bodies in Bengal was 4,651,146 grains. The total expenditure including the overhead charges for supervision, etc., was Rs. 44,568-1-3 against Rs. 42,022·9-9. Lymph to the value of Rs. 9,904-6 was sold during the year. The average cost of manufacture of vaccine lymph per dose of half a grain amounted to 1·4 pie only.

## Sanitation.

The Sanitary Board, Bengal.

394. The Board met seven times in the year 1935 and considered sketch projects for—

(*i*) Satkhira Water Supply Extension.

(*ii*) Nabadwip Drainage.

(*iii*) Halishahar Water Supply.

(*iv*) Hooghly-Chinsura Waterworks Extension.

(*v*) Jalpaiguri Water Supply Extension.

(*vi*) Dacca Water Supply Improvement.

(*vii*) Rajshahi Water Supply.

(*viii*) Baranagor-Kamarhati Joint Water Supply.

These schemes were recommended to Government for administrative approval; and the Board also recommended for final sanction detailed projects for—

(*i*) Faridpur Water Works Extension.

(*ii*) Mymensingh Water Supply Improvement.

(*iii*) Howrah Water Works Improvement.

(*iv*) Khulna Water Supply Extension.

(*v*) Asansol Sewerage.

(*vi*) Bagerhat Water Supply.

(*vii*) Dacca Water Works Improvement.

(*viii*) Jalpaiguri Water Supply Extension.

The Board also approved the scheme for improvement of water supply in the Dow Hill area of the Kurseong Municipality referred to it by Government. The Board further considered reports of inspections made by the officers of the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department in respect of 9 municipal waterworks and sewerage works. The Board formed a tuberculosis subcommittee with the Surgeon-General as Chairman, the Director of Public Health as Secretary and Dr. (Mrs.) Mary H. Y. Remfry as member. The advice of the Board was of particular value in regard to measures for the control of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Sanitary engineering.

395. During the year the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department prepared sketch projects for water supply at

Dacca, Rajshahi, Baranagor-Kamarhati, Garden Reach, Hooghly-Chinsura, Bogra and 9 other places, and for drainage and sewerage at Naihati, Titaghur, Krishnagar and 3 other places.

Detailed projects for water supply at Serampore, Bagerhat, Khulna, Jalpaiguri, Kurseong, Rangamati, Dacca and for sewerage at Asansol and Shillong were also drawn up, and plans were made in respect of 21 other miscellaneous schemes. In the course of the year work was carried on at Narayanganj, Mymensingh, Dacca, Barisal, Faridpur, Jalpaiguri, Bhatpara, Midnapore, Berhampore and Serampore in connection with either water supply or sewerage projects.

The stoppage of Government grants towards the execution of water-supply, drainage and other sanitary engineering schemes which was necessitated by the financial position adversely affected the number of schemes undertaken during the year.

The capital expenditure on waterworks was Rs. 2,13,789 in 1935 and on sewerage works Rs. 1,17,273 against Rs. 2,72,893 and Rs. 2,26,339, respectively, in 1934.

The department continued to render valuable assistance to the municipalities in the matter of inspection, advice and supervision.

The metering of house connections which was enforced in the two municipal towns of Comilla and North Chandpur strikingly demonstrated the need for continued vigilance on the part of the municipalities for the prevention of waste in the supply of water to the householders. Although the New Bengal Municipal Act gives power to the municipalities to enforce metering at the cost of the householders even in the case of old house connections, there is a general reluctance to enforce metering as a means of checking waste of water. Even where connections are metered excess water charges are not promptly realized, with the result that there is often considerable waste of public funds. The Chief Engineer reports, however, that the "decentralised storage" system of distribution, to which reference was made in last year's report, has proved a success in the municipalities of Asansol, Jalpaiguri and English Bazar where it was introduced as a method of checking waste of water, and it is proposed to introduce this system of distribution in all new schemes of water-supply. The Dacca Municipality has decided to reorganise part of its supply area on the decentralised storage system, and the sketch project of water-supply for the new Garden Reach Municipality has been designed on this system.

## Medical Relief.

[Report on the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal during the year 1935.]

### Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number of institutions.

396. During the year under report there were 45 hospitals and dispensaries including the Howrah General Hospital. Of these, 23 had accommodation for indoor patients and 22 provided treatment for outdoor patients only. In the indoor hospitals the total number of beds was 3,723 against 3,721 in the previous year, the increase being due to addition of 2 beds in the Mayo Hospital.

Attendance and admission.

397. The total number of patients treated in the Calcutta hospitals and dispensaries during the year was 976,216 comprising 70,622 in-patients and 905,594 out-patients as compared with 67,788 in-patients and 895,165 out-patients during 1934. The increase of patients treated is attributable mainly to the growing popularity of the institutions. The death rate among the in-patients was 10·61 per cent. As usual the Medical College group of hospitals treated the largest number of indoor and outdoor patients.

Nursing.

398. Nursing in all the hospitals in Calcutta with the single exception of the Presidency General Hospital is still unsatisfactory and the conditions remained very much the same as in the preceding year. This is partly due to lack of a sufficient number of trained nurses and partly to want of funds.

A scheme for the training of a limited number of Indian ladies in the profession of nursing in the Medical College group of hospitals has been sanctioned by Government. The success of the measures will be watched with interest.

The Bengal Nurses Registration Act of 1934 was brought into force with effect from the 13th February 1936 and the Nursing Council was constituted on the 23rd March 1936. It is to be hoped that the Nursing Council will be able to devise suitable ways and means of solving the difficult problem of nursing in the province as a whole.

Finances.

399. The total income of classes I, III and IV institutions was Rs. 34,46,846 as against Rs. 33,12,442 in 1934. Out of this Government contributions represented Rs. 17,84,478 or 51·77 per cent. of the total income, local and municipal fund contributions represented Rs. 7,59,168 or 22·02 per cent. subscriptions and donations represented Rs. 1,49,657 or 4·34 per cent. and fees from paying patients and other miscellaneous receipts amounted to Rs. 7,53,545 or 21·85 per cent.

The total expenditure for the maintenance of these institutions, excluding investment, rose from Rs. 32,86,461 in 1934 to Rs. 33,28,986, the increase being noticeable under the heads of salaries, medicines, diet and miscellaneous. The increase under "salaries" is due to the periodical increments of the staff, employment of additional staff and that under the other heads being due to the larger number of patients treated during the year.

## Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number.

400. During the year 35 Allopathic and 4 Homeopathic dispensaries were opened and 4 Allopathic dispensaries closed down, and at the close of the year there were altogether 1,298 Allopathic, 69 Homeopathic, 11 Ayurvedic, and 4 Unani dispensaries in the mufassal. In addition to these, there were some temporary epidemic dispensaries and itinerant dispensaries in operation. Of the total number of Allopathic dispensaries 750 were in the rural and 548 in urban areas.

Beds.

401. The number of indoor beds rose from 6,000 in 1934 to 6,067, of which 4,478 were for males and 1,589 for females. The total number of patients, both indoor and outdoor, in all classes of Allopathic dispensaries rose from 9,594,926 to 9,763,467 in 1935. The number of out-patients treated in Homeopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries was 451,963 against 453,777 in 1934.

The number of patients treated in the indoor wards of all Allopathic dispensaries rose from 87,099 in 1934 to 90,191 and the percentage of death was 6·04 against 5·90 per cent. only in the previous year. The Sadar hospitals at Dacca, Darjeeling, Burdwan, Chittagong and Mymensingh treated a large number of indoor patients.

The total number of out-patients in the Allopathic institutions was 9,673,276 as compared with 9,507,827 in 1934. The increase is attributable to the opening of new dispensaries and also to the increased popularity and growing activity of medical institutions at district headquarters as well as outlying places.

Disease.

402. Malaria continued to account for the largest number of patients treated in hospitals. The number, however, fell from 3,035,340 in 1934 to 2,877,825. Decrease also occurred in the number of deaths, viz., 275 against 395 in 1934. Kala-azar, however, showed a slight increase and 75,657 patients suffering from the disease were treated in the hospitals against 73,891 in 1934. The number of cholera patients treated rose from 7,552 in

the previous year to 8,992 during the year. Patients treated for Epidemic Dropsy (including Beri-Beri) showed a marked increase, viz., 15,553 in 1935 against 7,182 in 1934. Tuberculosis of the lungs accounted for 15,477 patients against 14,109 in 1934 showing an increase of 1,368 patients or 9·7 per cent. For Leprosy 4,972 patients were treated in the general hospitals and dispensaries against 5,015 in 1934. Besides these, 829 indoor patients were treated in the special hospitals for lepers at Gobra, Raniganj and Bankura.

The management of the Albert Victor Leper Hospital at Gobra, which was previously a State institution, has been transferred with effect from the 16th August 1935 to a Board of Trustees constituted under the Albert Victor Leper Hospital Act, 1935.

**Finance.**

403. The total receipts of hospitals and dispensaries in classes I, III and IV amounted to Rs. 33,12,911 against Rs. 27,15,848 in 1934 showing an increase of Rs. 5,97,063 and the total expenditure of these institutions was Rs. 28,47,865 compared to 25,75,946 in the previous year. Of the total income, subventions from Government formed 10·81 per cent. against 12·41 per cent. in 1934, while municipal and local fund contributions formed 56·31 per cent. against 60·75 per cent. in 1934, donations and subscriptions formed 12·12 per cent. against 11·07 per cent. and fees and contributions from patients including miscellaneous receipts formed 20·74 per cent. against 27·23 per cent. during the previous year.

**General remarks.**

404. In spite of financial stringency the working of the hospitals and dispensaries during the year under review showed sustained progress.

X-ray installation was added to 4 of the mufassal hospitals bringing the number of hospitals equipped with this facility to 12.

Rural areas are now receiving special attention in the matter of medical relief which during the year under report received a stimulus from the Central grant for rural uplift. More than Rs. 1,60,000 from this source was allotted in 24 districts for the establishment of 134 additional Union Board dispensaries.

## Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital, Darjeeling, for the year 1935.]

**General.**

405. The Eden Sanitarium and Hospital, Darjeeling, were founded for the benefit of Europeans who are unable to obtain in their homes the care and attention required when overtaken by sickness or accidents.

406. During the year under review the Eden Sanitarium opened on the 15th March 1935 and closed on the 16th November 1935, while the hospital attached to it opened on the 15th January 1935 and did not close until the 23rd November 1935. The number of admissions to the Sanitarium and hospital increased from 333 in 1934 to 412 in 1935, but that to the hospital proper fell from 91 to 73. Of the patients admitted to the hospital 56 were cured, 12 relieved, 4 discharged and 1 died. During the year under review the number of deaths in the hospital was only one against six in 1934. Number of patients.

407. There was no deficit on the year's working. The receipts from subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 1,525 as against Rs. 1,575 in 1934. No special grant from Government was required beyond the usual grant of Rs. 1,500 for the maintenance of free beds. Finance.

## The Poisons Act.

408. In the Presidency (excluding Calcutta) 6,943 licences were renewed and 2,776 fresh licences issued making a total of 9,719 against 7,944 current in the previous year, an increase of 1,775 licences. In Calcutta 493 licences were renewed and 37 fresh licences issued making a total of 530 against 558 licences current in the preceding year, a decrease of 28 licences. The increase in the number of licences renewed and in that of new licences issued in the Presidency, other than Calcutta, was due to frequent inspection by local officers in the districts which made it extremely difficult for anybody to deal in scheduled poisons without taking out the required licence.

During the year the cases of prosecution under the Act in the mufassal and Calcutta were 46 and 2, respectively, against 37 and 3 in the preceding year. In the mufassal 34 cases ended in conviction and 5 were still pending, while in Calcutta the 2 cases ended in conviction.

Of the 36 cases of cattle poisoning reported during the year against 18 in the previous year 17 ended in conviction.

# CHAPTER XI.

## Education.

Educational institutions.

409. During the year under review the number of educational institutions decreased by 2,234. "Recognised" institutions fell in number from 70,241 to 68,076 and the unrecognised schools from 1,419 to 1,350. The decrease in the number of schools was mainly due to efforts towards amalgamation of weaker primary schools. There was an increase in the number of pupils attending recognised institutions from 3,010,845 to 3,083,409, while the number of pupils attending unrecognised institutions decreased from 64,427 to 62,882. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to Rs. 444 lakhs against Rs. 432 lakhs in the preceding year. The following comparative statement shows the rise and fall of expenditure under the different heads:—

| Year. | Provincial revenues. | District boards. | Municipal funds. | Fees. | Other sources. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1934-35 .. | 136·19 | 18·36 | 15·67 | 192·75 | 69·41 |
| 1935-36 .. | 139·96 | 18·27 | 17·05 | 197·96 | 71·00 |

University and collegiate education.

410. Mr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., Barrister-at-Law, etc., was Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University during the period under review. Dr. Harendra Coomar Mookerjee, M.A., PH.D., University Inspector of Colleges, made another endowment of Rs. 50,000 to supplement the object of his previous endowment for the foundation of the Lalchand Mookerjee Scholarship. Mr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, M.A., offered to the University a sum of Rs. 30,000 for creating an endowment in memory of his father the late Rai Sahib Ishan Chandra Ghosh. At Dacca Mr. A. F. Rahman, M.A. (Oxon), M.L.C., continued to be the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University. The University classes were suspended from the 25th February 1936 and the long vacation was made to commence from 1st March 1936 extending up to 26th May 1936 owing to a serious outbreak of small-pox in an epidemic form in Dacca town. The Indian Economic Conference met at Dacca under the auspices of the University on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th January 1936 under the presidentship of Mr. Monohorlal of the Punjab. In the Calcutta University the number of University

students (excluding under-graduate students in commerce classes) increased from 975 in 1934-35 to 993 in 1935-36. The number of women students declined from 40 to 32. In the Dacca University there was also increase in the number of students in the Arts and Science classes, the total being 839 against 775 in the previous year. The number of law students in the Dacca University fell slightly. The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education completed the 16th year of its existence. The total number of Arts Colleges in the Presidency fell during the year from 51 to 49, of which 43 were for men and 6 for women. Of the 43 Arts Colleges for men 10 were maintained by Government and 33 were privately managed, 20 of the latter being subsidised by Government. The roll strength of these colleges increased from 24,403 in 1934-35 to 25,202 in 1935-36. The total cost of upkeep of these Arts Colleges during the year under report amounted to Rs. 37,78,218. A sum of Rs. 2,17,852 was disbursed by the Education Department in 1935-36 in giving grants to private colleges. The 10 per cent. cut in the maintenance grant to private colleges was, however, continued during the year. As in the previous year a sum of Rs. 45,000 was distributed among non-Government Colleges on the recommendation of the Calcutta University for the improvement of libraries, laboratories and gymnasia.

Secondary schools.

411. During the year under review there was an increase of 20,553 pupils in secondary schools and 50 in the number of schools. The average annual cost of educating a pupil in a secondary school was Rs. 33 and of maintaining a school was Rs. 5,047. The revised Matriculation Regulations received the sanction of Government during the year under report.

Primary schools.

412. There were 44,495 primary schools for Indian boys in 1935-36, and on 31st March 1936, 1,916,794 pupils were registered in them. Besides these, primary classes of secondary schools had 197,641 pupils. There was a total increase of 36,356 pupils in the year under report which is satisfactory in view of the present economic depression. On the 31st March 1936 there were 872,377 Hindu and 1,056,379 Muhammadan boys in the primary stage of instruction. The percentages of Hindu and Muhammadan boys to the total Hindu and Muhammadan male population were 7·6 and 7·4, respectively. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted to Rs. 66,62,424, of which Rs. 22,25,780 came from Provincial revenues, Rs. 8,07,752 from District funds and Rs. 7,79,435 from Municipal funds. The expenditure incurred by District Boards on primary education was smaller during the year under report than in the previous year. This was mainly due to the payment of arrear stipend of the year 1933-34 in 1934-35. During the year there was 912 Panchayeti Union Schools for boys and a grant of Rs. 1,41,768 was sanctioned for the maintenance of the schools for boys and girls. Further extension of the scheme

must necessarily be postponed on account of the increasing application of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act of 1930. On the 31st March 1936 there were in Calcutta 512 primary schools for Indian boys attended by 40,378 pupils, of whom 27,118 were Hindus and 13,089 were Muhammadans. The total cost of maintaining primary schools in Calcutta amounted to Rs. 7,43,917. In Ward No. IX of the City, primary education was made compulsory between the ages of 6 and 10. The optional scheme framed by Government under the Rural Primary Education Act of 1930 has been in operation in the districts of Mymensingh, Chittagong, Pabna, Dinajpur, Noakhali, Bogra, Birbhum, Dacca, Nadia and Murshidabad. Two more new School Boards were constituted in the districts of Rangpur and Jalpaiguri just after the close of the year. The District School Board of Mymensingh is contemplating the imposition of educational cess in the coming year.

**Training of male teachers.**

413. The two training colleges for secondary school teachers maintained by Government at Calcutta and Dacca had altogether 171 students on the rolls on the 31st March 1936 as against 173 students on 31st March 1935. The bulk of the students admitted to both Training Colleges last session were aided school teachers and young graduates desiring to take up the work of teaching. Out of 212 students who appeared at the B.T. Examination 158 were successful. During the year under report the Calcutta University also made arrangements for short training and vacation course in order to provide adequate facilities for the training of teachers in secondary schools.

**First grade training or normal schools.**

414. On the 31st March 1936 there were 5 normal (or first grade) training schools in the Presidency attended by 392 pupils, as compared with 394 pupils on the corresponding date of the previous year. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted to Rs. 1,16,103, almost the whole of which was met from Provincial revenues. One hundred and seventy, out of 186 students who went up for the examination, passed.

**Guru and Muallim Training Schools.**

415. The total number of guru and muallim training schools which train teachers of boys' primary schools remained stationary at 85, but the number of pupils attending them rose from 2,195 to 2,267. Of the 2,343 candidates who appeared in the final examination from these schools 2,018 were successful. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted in the year under review to Rs. 3,64,444 against Rs. 3,48,152 in the previous year.

**Training for women teachers.**

416. Women teachers of secondary schools continued to receive professional training at the training departments of the Scottish Church College and the Loretto House, Calcutta. Out of 45 students who went up for the last B.T. Examination 28 were

successful. The number of training schools and classes which afford training facilities to women teachers employed in primary schools and lower classes of secondary schools in Bengal rose from 10 to 11. Of these 3 were directly managed by Government and the rest by the Christian and Brahmo Missions. There were 287 pupils in these schools against 271 in the previous year.

Professional and technical education, Bengal Engineering College.

417. On the 31st March 1936 the Bengal Engineering College had 268 pupils on its rolls against 260 in the previous year. Thirty-four and 40 students passed the B.E. and I.E. Examinations, respectively. Five obtained diplomas in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and one passed the Associateship in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. The Degree Classes in Electrical Engineering started from the opening of the college session in the year under report. The cost of maintaining the college amounted to Rs. 3,68,370, of which Rs. 3,08,732 was provided from Provincial revenues.

Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca.

418. On the 31st March 1936 the Ahsanullah School of Engineering had 392 pupils on its rolls against 395 in the preceding year. The school passed 78 students in the Overseer Examination and 61 in the Sub-Overseer Examination. The cost of maintaining the school amounted to Rs. 1,40,986, of which Rs. 1,04,590 was borne by Provincial revenues.

Commercial Schools, Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

419. The number of commercial schools in the Presidency fell during the period from 22 to 20. The Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, registered 382 pupils on 31st March 1936 against 441 pupils in the previous year. The school passed 88 students in the Final Course Examination against 77 in the previous year. In the Special Commercial Course Examination 34 students passed against 42 in the previous year. The cost of upkeep of the school amounted to Rs. 51,141, of which Rs. 26,252 were provided from Provincial revenues.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

420. The Government School of Art, Calcutta, had 269 students on 31st March 1936 against 281 in the previous year. The cost of maintenance amounted in the year under report to Rs. 44,722, of which Rs. 31,088 was borne by Government.

Besides the Government School of Art, Calcutta, there were 4 other Art Schools in the Presidency, as previously. Three of these are located in Calcutta and one at Maheswarpasa in Khulna district. These schools had altogether 249 pupils on 31st March 1936, and the cost of managing them during the year was Rs. 28,738, of which Rs. 6,178 was contributed from Provincial revenues.

Education of Indian girls and women.

421. The number of schools of all grades and types for Indian girls during the year under review fell from 19,217 to 18,120. The number of Arts Colleges for women in the Presidency decreased from 7 to 6, but the number of pupils attending them rose from 657 to 705. Four hundred and thirty-six passed the I.A. and I.Sc. Examinations, while 185 secured the Bachelor's Degree, against 337 and 98 in the previous year. The number of high schools for Indian girls rose during the year under review from 54 to 59 and the number of girls reading in high schools also increased from 16,404 to 17,327. At the Matriculation Examination, 1936, 1,110 girls passed against 812 in the previous year. The scheme for the establishment of a high school for Muslim girls materialised during the year under review and the Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School was provincialised with effect from 2nd January 1936. The number of primary schools for girls stood at 17,638 with 508,549 pupils on their rolls during the year under report. Private agencies such as Nari Siksha Samiti, the Society for the Improvement of Backward Classes, Bengal and Assam, Brahmo Samajes and Christian Missionary Societies continued to work well in connection with the spread of female education. The scheme for the establishment of an Advisory Board for women's education in Bengal has been sanctioned by Government at the end of the year under report.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

422. The number of institutions for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians on the 31st March 1936 was 67 as in the previous year. Four were for special instruction and 63 for general education. These 63 included 24 secondary, 19 higher grade, 19 primary and 1 ungraded school. Government directly controlled 3 institutions, viz., the Victoria Boys' and the Dow Hill Girls', Schools, Kurseong, for general education and the Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, for the training of school mistresses. The rest were controlled by religious and philanthropic societies and by railway authorities. The total number of pupils (boys and girls) in European schools was 11,920 against 11,853 in the previous year. The non-European pupils reading in European schools numbered 2,662 during the year. The total expenditure on the education of European and Anglo-Indian children during the year under review was Rs. 35,93,148 as compared with Rs. 37,63,235 in the previous year. The total expenditure on scholarships during the year was Rs. 27,397 against Rs. 28,383 in the previous year. A scheme for the deputation of two Anglo-Indian or European male teachers annually to the Chelmsford Training College, Ghoragali, Punjab, and of two others to the Training Department of the St. Xavier's College had been approved by Government. The Dow Hill Training College is the only institution for the training of European and Anglo-Indian

women teachers in the Presidency. There were 18 students on 31st March 1936, as compared with 19 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The Children's House, Kurseong, accommodates mentally and physically defective European children, and stipends to the value of Rs. 2,520 were awarded during the year for the education and maintenance of children in this House. There were 24 pupils on 31st March 1936, an increase of one over the figure for the previous year. The Provincial Board of Anglo-Indian and European Education which was constituted last year is doing good work for the benefit of the education of the community.

Muhammadan education.

423. During the year under review the number of Moslem pupils reading in all grades of educational institutions for Indians rose from 1,598,675 to 1,626,511, of whom 1,234,513 were boys and 391,998 were girls, as compared with 1,162,623 Hindu boys and 307,390 Hindu girls on 31st March 1936. The proportion of Moslem students to the total number of pupils under instruction was 51·8 per cent. against 53·3 per cent. in the previous year. In Arts and Professional Colleges the proportion of Moslem to the total number of students under instruction was 14·3 per cent. and 11·07 per cent., respectively, as compared with 13·7 per cent. and 11·03 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. In the high and middle stages of instruction Moslem students constituted 22·4 per cent. and 24·2 per cent., respectively, of the pupils of all communities as compared with 21·4 per cent. and 24·1 per cent. in the previous year. In the primary stage the proportion was 55·0 per cent. and in special schools 70·4 per cent. of the total number enrolled. During the year under review the number of Islamic Intermediate Colleges in Bengal remained stationary at 3 and there were 181 students in them as against 166 in the previous year. Of the 80 students that appeared in the Islamic Intermediate Examination, 1936, 68 were successful. During the year under review the number of madrasahs increased from 713 to 726. Of the total number of madrasahs 583 were of reformed type, the rest being of old type. The number of pupils reading in reformed and old type madrasahs was 58,390 and 12,281, respectively. In the High Madrasah Examination, conducted by the Dacca Board, 541 students appeared, of whom 373 were successful. At the Junior Madrasah Examination 2,053 students passed out of 2,931 candidates. The number of maktabs or Muslim primary schools fell from 26,049 to 26,071. The total number of pupils reading in these institutions also decreased during the period from 965,987 to 965,195. The number of Muhammadan girls reading in all classes of recognised institutions was 386,729; and of these 30 were in colleges, 284 were in the high stage, 521 in the middle stage, 383,788 in the primary stage and

2,106 in special schools. For the encouragement of Muslim students in the Province, Government have provided the following facilities: (*i*) reservation of places in favour of Moslem students in Government and aided schools, (*ii*) grants of special scholarships and stipends and free studentships to the extent of 15 per cent. of their own enrolment.

**Oriental education.**

424. The Universities, both at Calcutta and Dacca, provided for instruction and facilities for research in higher Sanskrit and Islamic studies. Sanskrit studies were chiefly carried on in the indigenous tols, and Islamic studies in the madrasahs. The Bengal Sanskrit Association continued to control Sanskrit studies all over the Province; while the East Bengal Saraswat Samaj conducted its own examinations in the Eastern Bengal districts.

**Education of the sons of Chiefs and Nobles.**

425. In Bengal, there is no school set apart for the education of the sons of chiefs and nobles, but in the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad there are special arrangements for the education of the boys of the Nizamat family. The number of Nizamat boys under instruction was 18 during the year under review. These boys lived in a separate hostel, the upkeep of which cost Government Rs. 5,521.

**Education of the children of the backward classes.**

426. On the 31st March 1936, 425,257 boys and 91,446 girls, belonging to the educationally backward classes, were under instruction in various types of schools and colleges in the Presidency against 388,462 boys and 83,073 girls in the preceding year. It is gratifying to note that the number of boys and girls receiving education has been steadily on the increase. Schools for backward class children continued to be maintained for the most part by Missionary Societies and philanthropic bodies, such as the Society for the Improvement of Backward Classes, the Bengal Social Service League, the Hindu Relief Society, the American Baptist Mission of Midnapore and the Wesleyan Mission of Bankura. Government gave grants-in-aid to these institutions and accorded special privileges to their pupils.

**Education of criminal classes.**

427. The industrial school maintained by the Salvation Army at Nilphamari in the district of Rangpur for the education of Karwal Nuts, a criminal tribe, was attended by 41 boys and 30 girls against 33 boys and 36 girls in the preceding year. The Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Alipore, had 249 inmates on the 31st March 1936 against 222 on the corresponding date in 1935. The upkeep of these institutions cost Rs. 31,653 which was met entirely from Provincial revenues. The Borstal School at Bankura had 366 pupils against 277 in the previous year and cost Government Rs. 27,715.

Education of defectives.

428. The Blind School at Behala had 84 pupils including 19 girls and the cost of maintenance amounted to Rs. 30,826, of which Rs. 6,756 came from Provincial revenues. The Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School had 274 pupils on 31st March 1936 against the same number in the previous year. The five deaf and dumb schools at Dacca, Mymensingh, Barisal, Chittagong and Rajshahi had a total roll strength of 105 pupils. The school for defective children at Jhargram in the Midnapore district which was started by the Bodhan Samity had 15 pupils. Reference has already been made to the Children's House, Kurseong, for defective European children.

Tea garden schools.

429. In the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts there were 165 tea garden schools with 3,930 pupils against 153 schools with 3,658 pupils. The total cost of these schools was Rs. 25,358, of which public funds contributed Rs. 11,437.

Education of factory and colliery children.

430. In the coal mine areas of the Burdwan district there were 11 primary schools specially meant for the education of the miners' children. There were 6 primary schools exclusively meant for the education of the factory children in the mill areas of 24-Parganas. The Hindi primary schools and maktabs in the mills and factory areas of Titagarh, Ichhapore and Kankinarrah are attended mostly by children of mill-hands and factory labourers. For the children of Madrassi mill-hands there is a Telegu class attached to departmentally-aided primary school at Titagarh. Some mills in the Hooghly and Howrah districts maintained or subsidised primary schools meant for the children of mill-hands. Government contributed liberally towards the cost of all these schools. The Railway authorities at Kharagpur maintained a primary school for the education of children of railway workshop labourers.

Cantonment schools.

431. The cantonment area of Barrackpore had 8 schools with 780 pupils in 1935-36 against 9 schools with 870 pupils in 1934-35. On the 31st March 1936 there were 3 primary schools—one in Jalapahar and 2 in Lebong cantonment areas. They had altogether 160 pupils against 130 in the previous year.

Rural development grant.

432. The grant of Rs. 2 lakhs which was made available from the Government of India in the shape of rural development grant was distributed for the establishment of village halls and libraries, for the provision of village and school playgrounds, for grants-in-aid of the Boy Scout, Girl Guide and Bratachari Movements, and for agriculture farms or workshops to be attached to schools and madrasahs. This has undoubtedly given a great incentive to the cause of physical and intellectual improvement in the country-side.

# CHAPTER XII.

## Trade and Industry.

### Industries Department.

General remarks.

433. The main objective of the Department of Industries has as before been the development of industries with particular reference to home or small scale industries. There has been no important change in the general industrial policy of Government and while the Department has been unceasing in its efforts to develop the industrial life of the province within its limited resources by organising a system of training for turning out skilled labour and executive, by instituting special programmes of research and other measures to achieve that end, it has not been unmindful of the great importance of resuscitating the indigenous cottage industries, specially those subsidiary to agriculture which provided spare time occupation for a large section of the rural population and thereby enabled them to supplement their income. The old established cottage industries with little or no organised resources required special attention and fostering care to survive the onslaught of the mechanised industries.

Handloom industry.

434. The handloom industry, which is by far the largest and most important cottage industry in this province, received considerable attention from the Department. With the object of introducing up-to-date and economical methods of weaving with improved appliances for increasing the efficiency and earning capacity of the workers as well as for improving the quality and standard of the finished products, 9 district weaving schools and 25 peripatetic weaving schools are maintained by Government; while there are 10 private schools which receive Government aid. Since the establishment of the abovementioned Government institutions over 15,000 students received training in them, of whom not less than 11,000 have adopted weaving as their profession. The number of sleys and other improved weaving appliances introduced till the end of the year under review exceeds 13,000 and the total number of centres served by Government Peripatetic Weaving Schools exceeds 200. A total amount of Rs. 51,371 has been given out in loans to passed students of the Government Weaving Schools for starting independent handloom businesses. Arrangements were also made for textile demonstrations through the agency of 4 mobile weaving demonstration

parties operating in local areas. There is also a dyeing demonstration party which has done useful work in the silk centres in the Birbhum and Bankura districts.

A great impetus has been given to the cotton handloom industry by the Government of India's subvention to assist its organisation on co-operative lines. The work of organisation is being carried out by the Co-operative Department through the agency of selected co-operative industrial unions, while the Industries Department has been entrusted with the duty of technical research in that connection. This latter work is being done at the Serampore Weaving Institute through the agency of a small research staff employed for the purpose.

Coir industry.

435. In pursuance of the scheme for rural uplift also financed by the Central Government, 4 demonstration parties have been established to demonstrate the possibilities of the coir industry as a profitable cottage industry. The demonstration parties working at different centres have not only offered practical lessons to quite a good number of students, but have also been successful in convincing the villagers of the economic possibilities of the industry. As a result of the training imparted by these parties a number of factories have been started in the localities where the parties had their centres and it is significant that of the women trained by them 13 have started factories of their own.

Tanning and leather industry.

436. The tanning and leather industry also received attention in a large measure and the results achieved so far have been most encouraging. It is noteworthy that Bengal secured a fair share of the export trade in chrome shoe upper leather, viz., box sides and box-calves which received an impetus from the Ottawa Trade Agreement and, in its turn, gave a definite impetus to the chrome tanning industry. As a result of the pioneering work of the Bengal Tanning Institute the chamois leather industry has obtained a footing in Calcutta. The boot and shoe-making department, which is the only institution of its kind in Bengal affording facilities for training in the craft of shoe-making on up-to-date lines, has gained in popularity; and it is gratifying that about 60 per cent. of the students trained in this institution are engaged in the trade which is evidence of the fact that leather work is no longer repugnant to the young men of the bhadralok class. The tanning and boot and shoe-making demonstration parties have also achieved a fair measure of success in inducing people in the mufassal to set up business.

State-aid to industries.

437. The State-aid to Industries Act, on the other hand, provided the machinery for encouraging the development of small and cottage industries by the grant of financial assistance. Loans exceeding Rs. 82,000 have so far been sanctioned, of which a

little over Rs. 32,000 has actually been paid. This is exclusive of the sum of Rs. 25,000 which represents the amount guaranteed by Government as cash credit. In order to facilitate the quicker disposal of loan applications, powers have, since the close of the year, been delegated to the Board of Industries to sanction loans under the Act up to maximum of Rs. 5,000 in each case.

Unemployment relief scheme.

438. The unemployment relief scheme has now been in operation for nearly 4 years and a review of the work done during this period has amply demonstrated that it has been successful in turning the minds of educated bhadralok young men towards industrial pursuits. The scheme has resulted in training being given to 1,133 young men at an average cost of Rs. 243 per student, of whom 477 are known to have been provided with employment, or to have started or to be about to start business of their own in the respective industries concerned. It is a flattering testimony to the Bengal scheme that it has been particularly commended in the United Provinces Unemployment Committee's Report.

Detenu training scheme.

439. The Department also provided technical experts for the training of detenus in agricultural and industrial occupations according to the scheme arranged by the Political Department and inaugurated during the year under report.

Sericultural industry.

440. During this year the administration of the sericultural section was transferred from the control of the Director of Agriculture to that of the Director of Industries. Owing to unprecedented drought which prevailed during the year the mulberry crop on which the silk yield is dependent generally suffered. The silk market also did not show much improvement in spite of the tariff protection given to the industry. There are, however, good prospects of the revival of the cottage industry in the near future through the protection afforded by the tariff on imported silk, the intensive programme for the resuscitation of the silk industry initiated with financial assistance from the Government of India, and through the policy of the Department to devote more attention to the manufacturing side of the industry. With the introduction of the Government of India scheme for increased production of disease-free seed through the agency of selected rearers the number of such rearers rose from 207 to 356. An increased outturn of 5,871 kahans of disease-free seeds was obtained through 154 newly-enlisted seed growers. In 1935-36 the production and sale of controlled disease-free seed was 24,308 kahans against 18,437 kahans in the preceding year. Although the scheme was only brought into operation during the second half of the year very encouraging results were obtained towards the distribution of layings, and the improvement and disinfection of rearing houses.

## Manufacture and Mines.

441. The area under jute cultivation, including that in Cooch Behar and Tripura, was 1,689,000 acres during 1935-36 against 2,186,100 (revised) in the previous year. The total outturn was 5,759,500 bales against 7,749,500 bales (revised) in the previous year. Jute.

There were 95 mills at work against 93 in the previous year, and the average number of operatives increased by 11,248 to 262,989. The number of looms and spindles at work in these mills was 61,073 and 1,220,744 respectively.

The authorised capital in rupees, sterlings and dollars as reported by 92 mills was Rs. 22,99,62,000, £31,75,000, and $ 1,20,00,000; three mills being either proprietary or private concerns did not disclose their capital.

442. Nineteen cotton mills were at work during the year employing on an average 27,684 operatives as against 25,437 in 1934-35. The number of looms and spindles at work in 18 mills was 7,417 and 2,76,215, respectively as against 7,593 and 3,41,811, respectively, in 1934-35; these do not include the looms and spindles of one mill which has remained closed for some time past. Cotton.

443. Two silk mills coming within the purview of the Factories Act and employing on an average 358 operatives daily were at work during the year. Silk.

The total production of disease-free seed cocoons during the year was 40,352 kahans, 16,044 kahans being raised by Government nurseries and 24,308 kahans by private agencies under Government supervision.

444. The area under sugar crops increased from 329,600 acres in 1934-35 to 380,400 in 1935-36. Fourteen sugar mills were at work during the year employing on an average 3,475 operatives daily. The one sugar grinding mill which was mentioned as not working in last year's report closed down permanently during the year. Sugar.

445. The area under tea in 1935 was 210,961 acres (including figures for the Tripura State), as against 211,275 acres (revised) in the preceding year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 98,494,962 lbs. as against 100,702,500 lbs. in 1934. The number of tea plantations totalled 397 employing on an average 205,596 permanent and 8,060 temporary hands daily. Owing to the improvement in prices, the tea industry had a better year than in 1934. Tea.

The number of tea factories coming within the purview of the Factories Act was 287 and the total daily average number of operatives employed was 19,315: this figure does not include persons employed outside the factory premises.

Paper.

446. There were three paper mills at work during the year employing on an average 4,856 persons daily. They produced 34,748 tons of paper valued at approximately Rs. 1,32,00,000.

Wool.

447. As in the previous year only the Dacca Central Jail Woollen Mill with 16 looms and 576 spindles was at work during the year. It employed on an average 180 persons daily and produced 119,246 lbs. of blankets valued at Rs. 78,332.

Saltpetre.

448. No license was granted for the refinement of saltpetre during the year 1935-36.

Coal.

449. The number of mines in the Raniganj Coalfield worked under the Indian Mines Act, 1923, during the year 1935 was 191 against 184 in the preceding year. The number of coal mines using electrical energy was 43 against 42 in the preceding year and the number of mechanical ventilators and safety lamps in use was 30 and 13,255, respectively, against 27 and 12,439 in 1934.

The daily average number of persons employed in these mines during the year 1935 was 49,913: of these 35,808 persons were employed underground, 145 in open workings and the remaining 13,960 persons were employed on the surface. The employment of women underground is being gradually curtailed. During the year under report 3,575 women were employed underground against 3,914 in 1934.

The number of persons killed in accidents was 48, of whom 4 were females and the number of persons seriously injured was 187 including 17 women.

The total output of coal in Bengal increased from 6,159,486 tons in 1934 to 6,682,752 tons, an increase of about 8 per cent. There was an all-round increase in the average output of coal per person employed. The increase may be ascribed partly to the increased demand for coal and partly to the increased output from the extraction of coal in pillars.

Throughout the year the supply of labour was ample for requirements except for short intervals during the cultivation and harvest seasons and at periods when religious festivals were being celebrated. The daily wage rates of miners, loaders and other on-cost workers showed little variation, but the gross earnings per worker increased as the pits were worked for a greater number of

days than in 1934. The following figures show the average hours worked per week during 1935 :—

| | Overmen and Sirdars Foremen and mates. | Miners. | Loaders. | Skilled labour. | Unskilled labour. | Females. | Clerical and supervising staff. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Underground | 49 | 46 | 45 | 48 | 46 | 44 | .. |
| Open working | 44 | 44 | 39 | 48 | 45 | 41 | .. |
| Surface .. | .. | .. | .. | 51 | 50 | 49 | 52 |

Relations between employers and labour continued good and there was no industrial dispute of any note to record. The general health of the mining population was on the whole satisfactory.

The demand for all coal was better in 1935 than in any year preceding it since the slump began. Prices, however, did not improve, indeed the average of prices was less than in the previous year. The coal export trade showed no appreciable change over the previous year, but bunkering business increased slightly.

The Indian Coal Grading Board, as in previous years, maintained the same standard of good work during the year 1935 and the quality of export coal was very satisfactory. As in previous years the Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee continued their propaganda work in the principal cities. As a result of the Committee's efforts the popularity of soft coke as domestic fuel is increasing. The Committee have now taken up the question of improving the quality of soft coke and arrangements have been made to inspect loading. Prices of soft coke were fairly well maintained.

## Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries.

450. New features or changes in the existing industries were observed in the districts of Jessore, Nadia and 24-Parganas. In Magura subdivision of Jessore the wool weaving and knitting industries made considerable progress at Magura and Atharokoda as a result of demonstrations given by the Industries Department. In Nadia two small sugar factories—one at Kushtia and the other at Harinarayanpur—were brought into existence and equipped with centrifugal machines. In Chuadanga subdivision at the Alamdanga yarn depôt Jacquard looms have been installed for the manufacture of cotton and woollen fabrics. In the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district the sugar factory at Bhowanipore has started work. In the Diamond Harbour subdivision some

Presidency Division.

families at Topa and Mograhat started weaving of napkins and one family at Diamond Harbour the manufacture of brass jugs.

Burdwan Division.

451. A steady increase in production of coal in the collieries in the Asansol subdivision of Burdwan was maintained. As compared with 1933, the output showed an increase of about one million tons. There has been no improvement in the prices of steam coal, but the increased demand improved the price of slack coal. The demand for pig iron from Japan showed a considerable increase, and as a result the Hirapore Iron Works fared well, but the Indian Standard Wagon Company, Limited, have been hard hit for lack of orders. There are also some cottage industries such as soap-making, blanket weaving, brass and bell-metal and cutlery. In Birbhum district the rice and the oil mills fared badly, but the Stone factories were in flourishing condition. The small industries such as silk weaving, bell-metal, unglazed pottery, cocoon rearing, cutlery and conch-bangle making, shoe-making, carpentry, smithy, basket-making, etc., were worked on a more or less limited scale. Silk and lac industries were in a moribund condition. Fancy brass mounted bowls were manufactured at Lokepur in the Sadar subdivision. A match factory at Tilpara near Sainthia started work during the year. In Bankura the number of mills and factories decreased from 49 in the previous year to 36 during the year under report and eleven rice mills and one oil mill were closed down. The silk industry was fairly prosperous in spite of the competition of cheap Japanese silk. Other small industries such as cotton weaving and brass and bell-metal utensil-making, shoe-making, tobacco, cutlery and conch-shell products were languishing. In the Sadar subdivision of Midnapore the tasor and crude cutlery and nickel utensils showed a decline owing to the competition of cheaper imported products. In the Ghatal subdivision brass and bell-metal industries showed a further decline. The fine cloth industry has only survived with great difficulty in competition with cheaper mill made products. Combs from buffalo horns and bangles are prepared on a small scale in some parts of Daspur thana. Eighteen rice mills at Sadar of the Hooghly district and twenty-six at Arambagh subdivision worked during the year. Chief industries of the district, viz., handloom weaving, shoe-making, boat-making, chikon work, pot and wicker-making, bell-metal, dyeing and rope-making were generally in a languishing condition. In the Uluberia subdivision of Howrah district some weaving and comb industries have been established at Jadurberia and Deulgram where woollen and cotton goods and combs respectively were manufactured on a fairly large scale.

Rajshahi Division.

452. The rice mill at Atrai in Rajshahi district remained closed throughout the year and the oil mill at Naogaon worked

only for a short period. Gunny cloth weaving formed a minor industry in the district of Dinajpur and an open pan sugar factory was started close to the town. In Jalpaiguri attempts were made by several persons to revive the endi weaving industry. In Rangpur district cigar-making as a cottage industry received some attention of the young men of the localities where tobacco is grown. In the Nilphamari town soap-making was carried on on a small scale. In Bogra the existing soap factories and rice mills flourished during the year, while jute weaving kept busy a number of otherwise unemployed youths. The weaving industry at Shahzadpur and Enayetpur in Pabna district progressed during the year. Weaving of saries with ornamental borders, silk and wool weaving also made considerable progress and became popular.

Dacca Division.

453. In Munshiganj subdivision of Dacca district some young men were trained in jute weaving by the demonstration party of the Department of Industries. Paper is manufactured as a subsidiary home industry at Arial, also oil-cloth is manufactured at Malkhanagar, police-station Serajdigha, which has a great demand in the local market. The sugar mill at Sombazar in Narayanganj subdivision commenced work during the year under review. Handloom weaving found a lucrative business among the local weavers. In Mymensingh district knives, sickles, plough-shares, earthen-wares were manufactured on a small scale for local consumption in Netrokona subdivision, while the manufacture of sugar and cane chairs was carried on in the Sadar subdivision. Handloom weaving was pushed on vigorously in many villages of Tangail subdivision. Manufacture of utensils of brass and bell-metal, of which Kagmari and Magra are famous for their workmanship, was carried on, but all these industries have been adversely affected by economic depression. Excellent saries were manufactured by handloom weavers of Kishoreganj and Bajitpur in the Kishoreganj subdivision. Two sugar factories were to be established shortly in this subdivision. In the Faridpur district sugar-candy, *gur* from sugar-cane and date palm juice and *patis* were manufactured in the Sadar subdivision; and a small soap factory started operations. Two sugar mills resumed work in the Goalundo subdivision. The two existing ice factories continued to function during the year under report. Cane work, cutlery, pottery work and handloom weaving by local weavers were carried on as usual. In the Madaripur and Gopalganj subdivisions manufacture of bell-metal utensils, gunny-bags, molasses from palmyra palm and weaving provided employment for a number of persons.

Chittagong Division.

454. In the district of Chittagong cotton weaving on fly shuttle has practically replaced the throw shuttles throughout the district. The chief products are *lungi* and *gamcha*. Khaddar was manufactured on a large scale. Four cotton ginning mills started work with

raw cotton imported from the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Assam. The Chittagong Cotton Mill has not yet started operations. Cutlery, boat-making, lime-making, dry fish curing, *biri*-making, *gur*-making and *hooka*-making gave employment to a number of people. Another new soap factory in addition to the several existing ones, two factories in shoe-making and a brass and bell-metal factory were started by youths trained by the demonstration party of the Industries Department. Umbrella-making is carried on by young men of the town. The concession granted by the Government of India in the matter of salt manufacture on the sea coast has given an impetus to this industry and a large quantity of salt is manufactured by the local people for their own consumption as well as for sale. Hand-weaving, mat, umbrella and bell-metal manufactures of the Feni subdivision of Noakhali district deserves notice. As a result of demonstrations given by the Industries Department umbrella manufacture bids fair to be quite a popular and thriving industry. In the Tippera district manufacture of iron safes, steel trunks, suit cases, sugar-candy are carried on in the Chandpur subdivision. The industries relating to handloom weaving, manufacture of cane and bamboo articles, umbrella handles, brass and bell-metal utensils, hides and leather goods making in the Brahmanbaria subdivision and weaving of clothes known as Mainamati *Shari* and mosquito nets, the manufacture of nibs and pen-holders and the dyeing of fabrics at Comilla did well during the year under report.

## Factories Act, 1934.

Number of factories and factory operatives.

455. The number of factories on the register at the close of the year 1935 was 1,739, of which 1,302 were perennial and 437 seasonal. Of these, 144 factories did not work during the year. The average daily number of operatives employed in registered factories during the year was 513,199, of this number 56,490 were employed in seasonal factories. The average daily numbers of women, adolescents and children employed were 57,733, 10,879 and 2,328, respectively.

Inspection.

456. The number of visits paid by the Inspectorate to registered factories was 3,420 and to unregistered factories 208. Eight hundred and fifty-two factories were visited once, 279 twice, 159 three times and 182 more than three times. The number of inspections made by District Magistrates was 18. One hundred and twenty-three factories were not inspected during the year.

The sanitary conditions in larger factories are satisfactory, but those in the majority of smaller factories need improvement. The main obstacles to progress in this direction are as noticed

in the previous reports, the inadequacy of conservancy arrangement and unwillingness or inability of the municipal authorities to enforce their bye-laws. There was no epidemic disease during the year under report.

Accidents.

457. The total number of accidents reported from registered factories during the year under report was 5,351, as against 4,155 during the previous year. Of this number, 41 were fatal, 1,205 serious and 4,105 minor. The rate of accidents reported per thousand persons employed was 10·16 as against 8·66 in 1934. The increase which was mainly in the number of minor accidents, was due to increased pressure of work and better compliance with the law in regard to the reporting of accidents.

Prosecutions.

458. The number of factories prosecuted during the year was 72. Sixty-four were prosecuted once, 7 twice, and 1 three times. The total number of cases instituted was 131. Of these cases, 118 ended in conviction and 2 in acquittal, 4 were withdrawn and 7 remained pending at the close of the year. Seven appeals were preferred by the persons convicted, all of which were pending at the close of the year. Of the eight cases pending at the close of the preceding year, 7 ended in conviction and one was withdrawn.

## Industrial Disputes.

459. There were 30 disputes involving stoppages of work as against 22 in the previous year. All the disputes started and all except two ended during the year. The total number of workers involved in these disputes was 32,300 and the total number of working days lost was 369,252, as compared with 16,317 workers and 255,500 working days lost in the previous year. Nearly one-third of the total number of working days lost were lost in the Kesoram Cotton Mill strike in which some 5,000 workers were involved.

Of the disputes, 16 arose from questions concerning pay or bonuses, 4 concerning personnel, 2 concerning leave and hours and 8 came from miscellaneous issues. Ten disputes, 8 wholly and 2 partially, were settled in favour of the employees and 16 went against them. In two cases work was resumed on promises that the grievances would be redressed and two other disputes were still in progress when the year ended.

## Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

460. During the year 19 trade unions were registered and the certificates of registration of 6 unions were cancelled. The total number of trade unions on the Bengal Register at the end

of the year was 70 including one federation, as compared with 57 at the close of the previous year. The total membership of the 59 unions from which returns were received was 80,816, composed of 80,039 males and 777 females. The credit balances of 50 (the remaining nine unions had deficits or nil balance) of these 59 unions aggregated Rs. 2,79,571-5-5.

## Bengal Steam Boiler Commission.

461. The Commission held eleven ordinary meetings for the transaction of its business during the year 1935-36.

The total number of boilers on the register at the close of the year was 4,001. Three thousand two hundred and forty-nine applications for inspection of boilers were received during the year and there were 321 applications outstanding from the previous year. During the year under review 3,371 inspections were made. The difference between the number of boilers on the register and the number of inspections completed during the year is due mainly to boilers being out of use in the coal districts and elsewhere owing to the general trade depression. In addition to the annual thorough inspection, ordinary inspections were undertaken by the Inspectors for the purpose of ascertaining whether certificates should be revoked or suspended. Informal inspections were also made to see that certificated boilers were being worked in accordance with the terms of their certificates. Eight prosecutions for offences under the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, were instituted and convictions were obtained in seven cases. One hundred and fifteen boilers were found to be defective and detailed instructions were given for necessary repairs to make them serviceable. Two boilers were condemned as unfit for further use. One accident of a serious nature occurred during the year under review resulting in the death of two persons.

With effect from the 1st April 1936, Bihar and Orissa separated from the joint inspectorate with Bengal. The services of 4 Inspectors, 6 clerks and 3 peons of the joint Bengal and Bihar and Orissa establishment were transferred to Bihar and Orissa as agreed to by both Governments. The Steam Boiler Inspection Fund was abolished and the receipts and expenditure in connection with the administration of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, in Bengal were provincialised with effect from the 1st April 1936.

The total receipts of the Commission from all sources amounted to Rs. 2,55,016, of which Rs. 1,46,856 and Rs. 99,280

represented the fees from inspections of boilers in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, respectively. The total expenditure of the Commission amounted to Rs. 2,40,606, of which Bengal was responsible for Rs. 1,46,352 and Bihar and Orissa for Rs. 94,254.

## Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.

462. During the year 1935 the Commission held 11 meetings out of which one was special. The Commission examined and approved 81 plans for chimneys, etc., of which 63 were made in the office of the Commission. The number of inspections and tests carried out during the year was 4,820. Statutory warnings were issued in 31 cases; telephone warnings were given in 963 cases and 1,484 cases were reported to the factories concerned for departmental action. Twelve prosecutions were instituted during the year, all of which ended in conviction. The average emission of smoke from each factory chimney during the year was ·07 minute of dense black smoke per hour, the same as in the previous year, and is the lowest on record since 1906.

## Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1930).

463. During the year under review there was a marked but not unexpected increase in the work connected with the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal. The total number of applications filed under the different sections of the Act rose from 722 in the year 1934 to 1,037 in 1935, and included 199 applications under section 10 against 152 in the previous year.

The number of agreements filed during the year was 354 against 234 in the previous year.

A total sum of Rs. 2,69,506 was deposited with the Commissioner as compensation in respect of death of workers and accidents resulting in permanent disablement during the year as against Rs. 2,00,649 in the previous year. This increase was due partly to the increase in the number of cases and partly to the increase in the scales of compensation introduced by the Amending Act of 1934.

During the year statistical return were received from 2,068 concerns as against 1,726 concerns in the previous year. The average number of workers employed daily in these concerns

was 727,250 including 17,653 minor workers. The total number of accidents shown in the returns was 3,859 against 2,416 in the previous year. Of these accidents 131 resulted in death, 332 in permanent disablement and 3,396 in temporary disablement, the amount of compensation paid in respect whereof was Rs. 88,705, Rs. 76,061 and Rs. 36,876 respectively, as against Rs. 43,390, Rs. 46,971 and Rs. 21,025 respectively, in the previous year. Nine accidents resulting in temporary disablement to minors occurred for which Rs. 35 was paid as compensation. One case of occupational disease resulting in permanent disablement which was pending from previous year was disposed of during the year and a sum of Rs. 3,390 was paid as compensation. Another claim for occupational disease (lead poisoning) was instituted during the year, but it remained pending at the close of the year.

The year under review opened with 218 accounts current under section 8(7) of the Act in the Post Office Savings Bank with a total balance of Rs. 58,434. New accounts opened during the year were 201 with a total amount of Rs. 78,839 against 105 with a total amount of Rs. 42,789 in the previous year. Of these 419 accounts 91 were closed during year, 328 accounts remaining current at the end of the year with a total credit of Rs. 99,345.

Postal Cash Certificates of the nominal value of Rs. 27,510 were purchased during the year. Government promissary notes of the nominal value of Rs. 2,400 were also purchased in two cases in which the beneficiaries wished the money to be kept intact.

The total amount of revenue realised during the year in the shape of court-fees stamps and other sources was Rs. 1,095 against Rs. 810 in the previous year.

## Workmen's Protection Act, 1934 (Bengal Act IV of 1935).

464. The Bengal Workmen's Protection Act, 1934 (IV of 1935), was passed in 1934 and came into force with effect from 6th March 1935. The legislation was undertaken in pursuance of a recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour in India and is intended to prevent the besetting of industrial establishments by professional money lenders for the purpose of recovering their dues as a first charge on the wages of workmen. The Act was applicable in the first instance to Calcutta and the districts of 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah, but was subsequently extended to the Asansol subdivision of the Burdwan district and certain parts of Chittagong.

Reports received indicate that the Act has served its purpose and has proved a useful weapon against the evil it was intended to prevent.

Three persons were prosecuted in the Burdwan district, 6 in Hooghly and 10 in Calcutta; of those prosecuted all were convicted except 1 in Hooghly.

## Indian Companies Act of 1913 and Allied Acts.

465. The number of companies limited by shares in operation in Bengal at the close of the year under review was 4,916, as compared with 4,829 companies existing on the 31st March 1935. The total authourised and paid-up capital at the close of the year was Rs. 4,42,30,21,132 and Rs. 1,33,42,23,865, respectively against Rs. 4,15,34,48,782 and Rs. 1,32,16,69,850 respectively, at the close of the preceding year. Thus the aggregate authorised and paid-up capital increased by Rs. 26,95,72,350 and Rs. 1,25,54,015, respectively. The number of companies limited by guarantee existing on the 31st March 1936 was 130 as against 126 at the close of the preceding year.

The total number of companies and societies registered during the year was 316 against 322 registered during the year 1934-35. Of the new companies registered, 269 were limited by shares and 4 were limited by guarantee. Of the companies registered during the last three years, more than 56 per cent. were private companies.

Forty-three societies representing various social, philanthropic and charitable objects were registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860), during the year 1935-36 compared with 49 societies registered during the year 1934-35.

One hundred and eighty-three companies limited by shares were finally wound up or became otherwise defunct and their names were removed from the register, ninety-eight companies went into liquidation but were not finally dissolved during the year under report, and one company limited by guarantee ceased to work, one company limited by shares transferred its registered office from this Presidency to another Province, and two companies limited by shares and one company limited by guarantee transferred their registered offices from other provinces to this Presidency.

Changes in the names of 18 companies were registered during the year under report.

The total receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 1,00,019-6, out of which Rs. 233 were refunded, leaving a net income of Rs. 99,786-6, compared with Rs. 89,187-5 during the preceding year. The net receipts for the year exceeded expenditure by Rs. 60,865-4-10, the corresponding figure for the previous year being Rs. 54,455-10-6.

## The Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (V of 1912).

466. Thirty-four new societies were registered under the Act during the year under review, of which twenty-nine were also registered under the Indian Companies Act. Fifty-three societies went into voluntary liquidation, the registration of forty-two societies was cancelled, the names of two societies were removed from the registers, and four societies were converted into Life Assurance Companies. The total number of societies existing at the close of the year under review was 276 as compared with 343 of the previous year.

Inspection and investigations were made into the affairs of one hundred and eleven societies, of which forty-five societies could not be traced. These investigations were carried out by the Actuary, Mr. H. L. Humphreys, the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar, assisted by Registered Accountants. Two of the forty-two societies, whose registrations were cancelled, preferred appeals to the High Court against the order of cancellation; but the cases were pending at the close of the year. Another society whose registration had been cancelled during the year 1934-35, preferred an appeal during 1935-36 to the District Judge, Tippera, against the order of cancellation, but the appeal was dismissed. The number of Police Court prosecutions instituted during the year was 346, while 58 cases were pending from the previous year, making a total of 404. Of these cases 290 ended in conviction, 62 in acquittal, 6 were withdrawn and 7 were filed, and 39 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

## Trade.

### Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1935-36.]

General position.

467. Progress in the recovery of the trade of Bengal has proceeded slowly but surely. Both in value and quantity,

imports and exports were greater than in the previous year and were the highest since 1931-32.

The aggregate value of the trade excluding treasure rose from Rs. 129·73 crores in 1934-35 to Rs. 132·02 crores during the year under review. Of these, foreign trade accounted for Rs. 105·90 crores and coasting trade Rs. 26·11 crores, against Rs. 99·56 crores and Rs. 30·16 crores, respectively, in 1934-35. Foreign exports valued at Rs. 66·21 crores and foreign imports at Rs. 39·33 crores were recorded against Rs. 62·60 crores and Rs. 36·61 crores, respectively, in the preceding year. Coasting trade shows a decline in value both in exports and imports. The figures for this trade are, imports Rs. 15·43 crores and exports Rs. 10·59 crores against Rs. 19·46 crores and Rs. 10·63 crores in 1934-35. Less rice from Burma and less wheat from Sind are mainly responsible for the decline.

The British Empire accounted for nearly half the total trade and the United Kingdom's share of the trade was 36 per cent.; the United States came next with 14½ per cent. followed by Japan with 8½ per cent. and Germany with 7 per cent. The average price of the more important imports was generally less than that in the previous year. On the other hand the tendency of prices of exports was upwards.

468. The year opened with exchange at 1s. $6\frac{3}{32}$ d. and except for brief periods in April 1935, May 1935, and January 1936, the rate remained steady at that level. The rate dropped to 1 s. $6\frac{1}{16}$ d. on the 8th April of 1935, but firmed up to 1s. $6\frac{3}{32}$ d. on the 11th and remained steady at that level till the 16th of May. It improved by a point on the 17th, but soon receded to the former level on the 21st and remained stationary till the 14th of January 1936. It again firmed up to 1 s. $6\frac{1}{8}$ d. on the 15th January as a result of the appearance of jute gunny and bullion bills and heavy gold exports and remained steady at that rate till the 24th when it dropped to 1s. $6\frac{3}{32}$ d. With the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India on the 1st April 1935, Government have ceased to purchase sterling in the open market for remittances to the Home Treasury. These remittances are now arranged for by the Reserve Bank. During the year under review the Bank purchased sterling to the extent of £35,425,000 in the market at an average rate of 1 s. $6\frac{1}{8}$ d. the rupee. The visible balance of trade for the year was appreciably favourable to India, but as in the previous year the strength of the exchange was due largely to exports of gold. Exchange.

Foreign import, Calcutta.

469. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal articles imported into Calcutta from foreign countries:—

| | 1934-35. Rs. | 1935-36. Rs. | Percentage. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cotton | 6,14,37,219 | 6,14,83,254 | 16·29 |
| Machinery and millwork | 4,39,25,164 | 5,71,24,826 | 15·13 |
| Metals and oars | 3,99,40,272 | 4,64,10,341 | 12·30 |
| Instruments, apparatus and appliances | 1,68,47,317 | 1,92,77,185 | 5·12 |
| Oils | 1,99,71,038 | 1,89,38,117 | 5·02 |
| Chemicals | 1,17,75,225 | 1,25,80,812 | 3·33 |
| Hardware | 92,64,784 | 1,09,09,592 | 2·89 |
| Paper and pasteboard | 82,82,727 | 91,88,596 | 2·43 |
| Provisions and oilman's stores | 74,80,289 | 79,18,919 | 2·10 |
| Motor vehicles | 76,37,869 | 77,30,598 | 2·05 |
| Liquors including methylated and perfumed spirits | 66,33,056 | 70,02,626 | 1·85 |
| Drugs and medicines | 61,05,726 | 67,73,548 | 1·79 |
| Postal articles not specified | 56,17,144 | 58,30,460 | 1·54 |
| Spices | 65,71,635 | 56,68,085 | 1·50 |
| Railway carriages and wagons | 46,86,413 | 56,09,957 | 1·49 |
| Woollen goods | 73,95,373 | 47,10,569 | 1·25 |
| Glass and glassware | 37,45,702 | 44,84,148 | 1·19 |
| Rubber | 47,28,867 | 42,14,738 | 1·12 |
| Salt | 35,40,901 | 38,06,605 | 1·01 |
| Paints and painters' materials | 32,23,054 | 36,56,827 | ·97 |
| Tea-chests | 31,65,190 | 35,74,853 | ·95 |
| Cycles | 33,53,283 | 35,65,559 | ·94 |
| Dyeing and tanning substances | 25,04,097 | 33,59,866 | ·89 |
| Artificial silk | 33,66,076 | 26,20,977 | ·69 |
| Wool, raw | 20,13,933 | 24,73,845 | ·66 |
| Stationery (excluding paper) | 19,55,370 | 24,57,501 | ·65 |
| Tobacco | 23,21,968 | 22,59,087 | ·60 |
| Silk goods | 18,58,347 | 21,84,773 | ·58 |
| Apparel | 18,74,789 | 21,58,843 | ·57 |
| Cotton, raw | 15,29,507 | 20,82,354 | ·55 |
| Books, printed and printed matter | 19,53,334 | 20,51,396 | ·54 |
| Toilet requisites | 20,03,666 | 20,14,191 | ·53 |
| Sugar | 25,31,614 | 19,92,684 | ·53 |
| Belting for machinery | 15.49,104 | 19,48,705 | ·52 |
| Building and engineering materials | 13,80,323 | 18,08,692 | ·49 |
| Wood pulp | 23,73,643 | 18,25,224 | ·48 |
| Wood and timber | 16,26,501 | 18,13,706 | ·48 |
| Manures | 17,05,961 | 17,94,749 | ·48 |
| Toys and requisites for games | 17,92,391 | 17,03,513 | ·45 |
| Leather | 14,42,997 | 15,48,760 | ·41 |
| Umbrellas and fittings | 13,87,758 | 15,47,797 | ·41 |
| Boots and shoes | 17,68,195 | 13,52,438 | ·36 |
| Lac | 26,96,352 | 12,91,704 | ·34 |
| Starch and farina | 9,32,601 | 11,82,515 | ·31 |
| Silk, raw | 7,96,917 | 10,21,302 | ·27 |
| Other articles | 2,45,36,962 | 2,24,93,992 | 5·95 |
| Total | 35,32,30,654 | 37,74,48,829 | 100·00 |

Liquors.

470. The general improvement in the import of potable liquors noted in the preceding year's report continued during the year under review. The total quantity of liquors of all descriptions imported during the year was 1,335,509 gallons valued at Rs. 70·02 lakhs, against 1,230,458 gallons valued at Rs. 66·33 lakhs in 1934-35. The United Kingdom sent three-fifths of the malt liquors; Japan and Germany came next. Almost all the whisky and gin came from the United Kingdom and the brandy from France.

Sugar.

471. The development of the Indian sugar industry has resulted in the reduction of imports of sugar from abroad from 23,177 tons valued at Rs. 25·32 lakhs in 1934-35 to 19,384 tons valued at Rs. 19·93 lakhs in the year under review.

Salt.

472. There has been very little change in the imports of salt from abroad during the last three years. The total quantity of foreign salt imported during the year was 292,633 tons valued at Rs. 38·06 lakhs and of Indian salt 238,826 tons valued at Rs. 30·38 lakhs. Aden supplied 86 per cent. and Germany 13 per cent. of the foreign salt. Imports from other Indian ports with the exception of Tuticorin were greater and indigenous salt now accounts for 45 per cent. of the total import. Prices were steady, except in the third quarter, when a sudden rise in steamer freights caused by the Italo-Abyssinian War, brought about a temporary rise in price. As usual, clearances ex-ship greatly exceeded those ex-gola. The quantity of salt in bond at the close of the year was 71,620 tons, compared with 30,960 tons in the preceding year. The total quantity of salt consumed during the year was 480,631 tons.

Tobacco.

473. For the past three years, the import of unmanufactured tobacco has declined steeply; the total quantity imported during the year was 722,575 lbs. valued at Rs. 8·02 lakhs, against 3,062,610 lbs. valued at Rs. 32·44 lakhs in 1932-33. The corresponding figures during 1933-34 were 2,430,264 lbs. valued at Rs. 20·03 lakhs and in 1934-35, 1,507,886 lbs. valued at Rs. 11·04 lakhs. The decline is attributable to the progressive use of indigenous tobacco in the manufacture of cigarettes in India. Imported cigarettes reached the highest figure since 1931-32. The total quantity imported during the year was 297,266 lbs., valued at Rs. 11·35 lakhs, against 213,289 lbs. valued at Rs. 8·58 lakhs in 1934-35. Cigars also show slight improvement.

Mineral oils.

474. In 1934-35, the import trade in mineral oils showed a slight improvement after a period of steady decline since 1931-32. During the year under review, the trade again declined. The

total quantity of mineral oils imported during the year was 92,863,665 gallons valued at Rs. 329·48 lakhs, against 99,654,203 gallons valued at Rs. 392·05 lakhs in 1934-35. Supplies of kerosine oil from Russia show an increase of about 55,000 gallons, but owing to lower prices, the value was lower by a little over Rs. 8½ lakhs. Sumatra supplied only half as much kerosine as in 1934-35, while imports from Java ceased altogether. Burma supplied more than two-thirds of the total amount of kerosine imported during the year.

**Motor vehicles.**

475. The import of motor vehicles was slightly in excess of that of the previous year. With the advantage of the preference offered by the Ottawa Trade Agreement, the United Kingdom and Canada captured some of the United States' custom. Out of a total of 3,249 cars imported during the year, 2,021 came from the United Kingdom and 663 from Canada, against 1,738 and 628, respectively, in 1934-35, whereas the United States sent only 456 compared with 648 in 1934-35. Imports of tyres and tubes were the smallest for very many years.

**Drugs, medicines and chemicals.**

476. The imports of drugs and medicines and chemicals show continued improvement during the last few years. The total value of the trade during the year under review was Rs. 67·74 lakhs for drugs and medicines and Rs. 125·80 lakhs for chemicals, against Rs. 61·06 lakhs and Rs. 117·75 lakhs, respectively, in 1934-35. More than half the trade was shared by the United Kingdom. Her supply of sodium compounds alone was valued at Rs. 48·61 lakhs.

**Glass and earthenwares.**

477. Imports of glass and earthen wares show continued improvement. The total value of the trade during the year was Rs. 56·73 lakhs, against Rs. 46·87 lakhs in 1934-35. Of this figure, bangles were responsible for Rs. 6·45 lakhs; beads and false pearls Rs. 6·06 lakhs; bottles and phials Rs. 9·35 lakhs; funnels, globes and glass parts of lamps Rs. 1·22 lakhs; sheets and plates Rs. 6·44 lakhs and earthen wares and porcelain Rs. 11·89 lakhs.

**Machinery and mill work.**

478. The total value of machinery and millwork imported during the year was Rs. 571·25 lakhs, the highest figure since 1929-30. The erection of new mills and renewed activity in the jute industry were responsible for the increase in jute machinery, electrical machinery and boilers. Sugar machineries also continued to arrive in larger quantities. The United Kingdom supplied machineries worth Rs. 415 lakhs or 73 per cent. of the total

trade; the United States Rs. 65·4 lakhs or 11 per cent., and Germany Rs. 47·2 lakhs or 8·3 per cent.

Metals and metal manufactures.

479. Metals and metal manufactures of all kinds except antifriction metal imported during the year were the highest recorded since 1930-31. The United Kingdom and Germany increased their supply considerably. The total quantity of iron and steel imported during the year was 155,134 tons valued at Rs. 253·98 lakhs, and of metals and ores other than iron and steel 839,977 cwts. valued at Rs. 210·13 lakhs.

Paper, pasteboard and wood pulp.

480. The total quantity of paper of all kinds imported during the year under review amounted to 786,439 cwts. valued at Rs. 75·93 lakhs, against 719,648 cwts. valued at Rs. 71·02 lakhs in 1934-35. The chief suppliers were the United Kingdom 349,097 cwts. valued at Rs. 28·96 lakhs; Norway 145,489 cwt. valued at Rs. 12·74 lakhs; Germany 134,099 cwts. valued at Rs. 15·55 lakhs; Sweden 133,061 cwts. valued at Rs. 14·90 lakhs, and Japan 60,994 cwts. valued at Rs. 3·11 lakhs. As usual, more than half the packing paper came from Sweden; Germany was the next highest supplier of this article. Norway supplied nearly half of the printing paper; Germany occupied the second place in respect of this article as well; then come Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Norway sent the largest quantity of writing paper, but the better qualities came from the United Kingdom. The import of pasteboard, mill-board and cardboard rose from 148,352 cwts. valued at Rs. 11·80 lakhs in 1934-35 to 196,283 cwts. valued at Rs. 15·96 lakhs during the year. Japan followed by Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands were the main suppliers. Imports of wood pulp were the lowest for many years and showed a deficit of 79,419 cwts. compared with 1934-35 when the total quantity imported was 358,172 cwts. This is attributed to the extended use of bamboo pulp on the Indian mills.

Cotton goods.

481. The quantity of twist and yarn imported during the year rose from 11,379,758 lbs. valued at Rs. 89·76 lakhs in 1934-35 to 16,376,462 lbs. valued at Rs. 117·86 lakhs. China and Japan increased their supplies of yarn considerably to meet the demands of the hosiery and cotton mills recently started in Bengal. There was not much change in the import of piece-goods. Although the yardage was greater by nearly 2½ millions over the preceding year's total of 292,562,473 yards, the value was less by Rs. 22 lakhs. Japan increased her trade in piece-goods of all kinds at the expense of the United Kingdom, whose trade also suffered from competition with the Indian mills.

**Silk and artificial silk piece-goods.**

482. The import trade in silk and artificial silk piece-goods records a slight fall from 9,180,041 yards valued at Rs. 24·30 lakhs in 1934-35 to 8,628,422 yards valued at Rs. 19·30 lakhs during the year under review. The prevalence of smuggled goods sent by post from Pondicherry and Karikal to Chandernagore had an adverse effect on the import trade in silk piece-goods. Aided by the favourable rate of exchange, China increased her supplies considerably. Artificial silk piece-goods receded from 8,549,890 yards valued at Rs. 21·12 lakhs in 1934-35 to 8,023,442 yards valued at Rs. 16·72 lakhs. This is attributed to the application of sanctions against Italy in November 1935, and competition with the cheap but attractive Japanese cloth.

**Woollen goods.**

483. Owing to abnormal imports of woollen goods in 1934-35, heavy stocks remained unsold and only about half the quantity of woollen piece-goods, rugs and blankets were received. The total value of the woollen goods trade during the year was Rs. 47·11 lakhs, against Rs. 73·95 lakhs in 1934-35 and Rs. 46·33 lakhs in 1933-34. Japan's supply dropped from Rs. 17·82 lakhs to Rs. 6·14 lakhs and Italy's from Rs. 3·07 lakhs to Rs. 0·33 lakhs. The deficit in the case of rugs and blankets, for which sanctions against Italy were a contributing cause, was partly made up by larger receipts of shawls from Japan and shoddy piece-goods from Italy. Imports of raw wool, chiefly from Australia, amounted to over 4 million lbs. valued at Rs. 24¾ lakhs.

**Other articles.**

484. Most of the other articles not already dealt with in detail also show an appreciable improvement. Under instruments, apparatus and appliances, the United Kingdom increased her supplies of electrical goods by Rs. 13 lakhs. Other important increases occurred under hardware, railway carriages and wagons, dyeing and tanning substances, raw cotton, raw wool, paints and painter's materials, stationery, tea-chests, provisions and oilman's stores, belting for machinery and building, and engineering materials. Unspecified articles imported by post rose in value from Rs. 56 lakhs to Rs. 58 lakhs. Noticeable declines occurred under spices, grain, pulse and flour, rubber, boots and shoes, soap and precious stones.

**Chittagong.**

485. The import trade of Chittagong with foreign countries rose from Rs. 83·11 lakhs in 1934-35 to Rs. 89·17 lakhs during the year under report. The improvement is attributed to larger supply of galvanised iron sheets from the United Kingdom, which more than made up for the shortage of Rs. 3 lakhs under machinery.

486. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal articles exported from Calcutta to foreign ports:— Foreign export-Calcutta.

| Indian merchandise. | 1934-35. Rs. | 1935-36. Rs. | Percentage. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jute manufactures .. | 21,41,93,644 | 23,46,19,266 | 38·55 |
| Jute, raw .. | 10,24,06,463 | 13,17,19,692 | 21·65 |
| Tea .. .. | 11,25,58,375 | 10,94,72,109 | 17·99 |
| Hides and skins, raw .. | 2,00,38,796 | 2,45,85,360 | 4·04 |
| Metals and ores .. | 1,53,97,562 | 1,89,85,912 | 3·12 |
| Lac .. .. | 3,26,63,881 | 1,58,27,536 | 2·60 |
| Seeds .. .. | 1,29,52,174 | 1,23,12,860 | 2·00 |
| Grain, pulse and flour .. | 1,19,50,341 | 1,12,58,274 | 1·85 |
| Mica .. .. .. | 61,07,163 | 72,18,071 | 1·19 |
| Cotton, raw .. .. | 30,09,301 | 60,04,186 | ·99 |
| Woollen goods .. .. | 69,76,042 | 55,49,564 | ·91 |
| Hemp, raw .. .. | 26,30,545 | 40,98,150 | ·67 |
| Oilcakes .. .. | 24,93,979 | 32,32,306 | ·53 |
| Dyeing and tanning substances .. | 23,37,056 | 23,81,066 | ·39 |
| Bones .. .. | 23,81,536 | 21,66,251 | ·36 |
| Postal articles .. .. | 12,71,023 | 19,73,426 | ·32 |
| Manures .. .. | 14,94,774 | 17,20,668 | ·28 |
| Coal and coke .. .. | 29,11,917 | 17,16,640 | ·28 |
| Provisions and oilman's stores .. | 13,16,663 | 14,02,193 | ·23 |
| Spices .. .. | 12,91,070 | 12,43,486 | ·20 |
| Leather .. .. | 14,13,991 | 12,29,846 | ·20 |
| Apparel .. .. | 9,45,793 | 10,95,898 | ·18 |
| Saltpetre .. .. | 9,75,414 | 8,76,771 | ·14 |
| Cotton goods .. .. | 7,98,846 | 8,51,734 | ·14 |
| Instruments, apparatus and appliances .. | 7,88,697 | 7,40,926 | ·12 |
| Oils .. .. .. | 5,96,197 | 6,64,455 | ·11 |
| Boots and shoes .. .. | 3,64,351 | 5,31,138 | ·09 |
| Kapok .. .. | 3,41,809 | 5,17,921 | ·09 |
| Paraffin wax .. .. | 20,32,959 | 5,00,850 | ·08 |
| Drugs and medicines .. | 4,13,975 | 4,79,130 | ·08 |
| Cordage and rope .. | 3,72,341 | 3,42,808 | ·06 |
| Paints and painters' materials .. | 2,43,893 | 2,45,578 | ·04 |
| Tobacco .. .. | 3,34,164 | 87,367 | ·02 |
| Opium .. .. | 6,80,000 | .. | .. |
| Other articles .. .. .. | 29,32,086 | 30,50,862 | ·50 |
| Total Indian merchandise .. | 56,96,17,821 | 60,87,02,300 | 100·00 |

487. There has been a steady fall in the export of cereals since 1931-32. The total quantity of cereals exported during the year under report was 80,373 tons, valued at Rs. 87·94 lakhs, of which rice alone accounted for 80,141 tons valued at Rs. 87·72 lakhs. Mauritius, formerly Bengal's best customer, reduced her demands by more than half and gave place to the Union of South Africa as the largest consumer. The average shipment price of rice rose from Rs. 98-4 to Rs. 109-7 per ton. The quantities of pulses and wheat were 23,369 tons valued at Rs. 23·75 lakhs and 958 tons valued at Rs. 0·89 lakhs, respectively. Grain, pulse and flour.

Tea.

488. The reduction of the export quota under the Indian Tea Control Act, 1933, necessarily resulted in a fall in the shipment of tea from 199,523,324 lbs. valued at Rs. 1125·58 lakhs in 1934-35 to 186,874,948 lbs. valued at Rs. 1094·72 lakhs during the year under report. The price per pound was 9 annas 4 pies against 9 annas in the preceding year. Stocks in the United Kingdom were heavy and her demand during the year decreased. In America, coffee is steadily supplanting tea in popularity and her purchases of tea diminished considerably.

Shipments to Persia and Russia were unusually high. Persia increased her demand from 305,531 lbs. in 1934-35 to 1,773,975 lbs. and Russia from 40,432 lbs. to 976,474 lbs. Aden and Australia also increased their demands. The export of tea waste shows an improvement from 3,210,650 lbs. valued at Rs. 1·41 lakhs in 1934-35 to 3,870,614 lbs. valued at Rs. 1·77 lakhs. As usual, the United States provided an outlet for all the tea waste for use in the manufacture of caffeina. The tea cess collected during the year amounted to Rs. 14·08 lakhs, against Rs. 9·94 lakhs in previous year. The increase is due to the enhancement of the rate of the cess from 8 annas to 12 annas per 100 lbs. with effect from the 13th April 1935.

Coal.

489. Shipments of coal to foreign ports fell heavily from 308,420 tons valued at Rs. 28·72 lakhs in 1934-35 to 197,501 tons valued at Rs. 16·93 lakhs. The shortage was shared by all countries and is due mainly to the inability of Bengal to compete with Natal coal, specially to Ceylon, which is Bengal's principal foreign market.

Lac.

490. The export of lac button and shell fell from 442,375 cwts. valued at Rs. 274·62 lakhs in 1934-35 to 313,904 cwts. valued at Rs. 114·98 lakhs. There was a slight rise in the export of other sorts of lac from 137,395 cwts. to 172,557 cwts., but the value received shows a fall from Rs. 52·02 lakhs to Rs. 43·30 lakhs. The fall in the trade is due to the reduction of the United Kingdom's demand from 234,367 cwts. valued at Rs. 148·00 lakhs in 1934-35 to 62,625 cwts. valued at Rs. 23·95 lakhs. Other countries, however, took advantage of the lower average shipment price which fell from Rs. 56-5 to Rs. 32-9 per cwt. and increased their purchases.

Hides and skins.

491. Trade in hides and skins shows an improvement from 23,471 tons valued at Rs. 206·53 lakhs in 1934-35 to 26,917 tons valued at Rs. 248·54 lakhs. Raw hides account for 14,351 tons valued at Rs. 79·28 lakhs, against 14,470 tons valued at Rs. 76·97 lakhs in the preceding year and raw skins for 9,732 tons valued at Rs. 165·46 lakhs against 7,676 tons valued at Rs. 122·88 lakhs. Dressed hides and skins declined from 132 tons valued at Rs. 6·15

lakhs to 74 tons valued at Rs. 2·69 lakhs. Cuttings of raw hides and skins record an improvement from 1,193 tons valued at Rs. 0·53 lakhs to 2,760 tons valued at Rs. 1·11 lakhs.

Metals and ores.

492. The exports of manganese ore improved from 208,493 tons valued at Rs. 35·68 in 1934-35 to 237,790 tons valued at Rs. 41·37 lakhs. After the United Kingdom, the United States was the largest buyer of manganese ore. Purchases by the former, however, were below those of the last year, whereas those by the latter increased considerably. The total quantity of iron and steel exported during the year under review was 583,695 tons valued at Rs. 135·59 lakhs as against 464,982 tons valued at Rs. 106·21 lakhs in 1934-35. Japan continued to absorb large quantities of pig iron and old iron. Other metals and ores show a rise from 26,044 tons valued at Rs. 12·08 lakhs in 1934-35 to 33,380 tons valued at Rs. 12·90 lakhs. Kyanite ore to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom constituted the chief item, under "other metals and ores."

Mica.

493. The improvement in the export of mica noted in the last report continued and the figures rose from 93,711 cwts. valued at Rs. 61·07 lakhs in the previous year to 151·217 cwts. valued at Rs. 72·18 lakhs. Of this, mica blocks account for 19,479 cwts. valued at Rs. 35·66 lakhs and the rest was mica splittings. Each country importing Indian mica increased its share. The United States was the largest purchaser. Next came the United Kingdom, Germany and Japan.

Oilseeds, vegetable oils and oil-cakes.

494. The export of linseed declined from 96,605 tons valued at Rs. 117·92 lakhs in the preceding year to 82,151 tons valued at Rs. 107·33 lakhs, but castor-seed records a rise from 8,845 tons valued at Rs. 8·24 lakhs to 10,066 tons valued at Rs. 11·83 lakhs. The total quantity of oil-seeds exported during the year was 92,396 tons valued at Rs. 1,19·73 lakhs. Vegetable oils exported during the year amounted to 436,622 gallons valued at Rs. 6·54 lakhs against 484·274 gallons valued at Rs. 5·94 lakhs in 1934-35 and oil-cakes to 57,737 tons valued at Rs. 32·32 lakhs against 50,311 tons valued at Rs. 24·94 lakhs.

Cotton.

495. Shipments of cotton doubled both in value and quantity; the figures for the year are 12,291 tons valued at Rs. 60·04 lakhs, as against 6,122 tons valued at Rs. 30·09 lakhs.

Hemp.

496. Shipments of hemp show steady rise since 1931-32. The quantity exported during the year under report was 488,283 cwts. valued at Rs. 40·98 lakhs, against 343,420 cwts. valued at Rs. 26·31 lakhs in 1934-35. Belgium was chiefly responsible for the year's rise in the trade.

Jute and jute manufactures.

497. Shipments of jute and gunny bags and cloth showed a welcome improvement and were the heaviest since 1929-30. The

total trade rose from 1,395,810 tons valued at Rs. 31,66·00 lakhs in 1934-35 to 1,495,356 tons valued at Rs. 3,663;39 lakhs. Raw jute accounts for 743,752 tons valued at Rs. 1,317·20 lakhs. The average price of raw jute per bale of 400 lbs. rose from Rs. 25-11 to Rs. 31-10. Germany ousted the United Kingdom as the largest purchaser of this article, but she took fewer gunny bags and no cloth at all. The United States was the next largest consumer. Shipments to Italy declined considerably. The net collections of jute cess for the Calcutta Improvement Trust were Rs. 11:27 lakhs, compared with Rs. 10·78 lakhs last year.

Dyeing and tanning substances.

498. Myrobalan and its extract accounted for 99 per cent. of the total trade in dyeing and tanning substances. Shipments were larger than in any year since 1927-28. The total quantity exported rose to 755,996 cwts. valued at Rs. 23;80 lakhs, against 655,152 cwts. valued at 23·37 lakhs in 1934-35. The average shipment price fell from Rs. 3-6 in 1934-35 to Rs. 3.

Other articles.

499. Comparative figures are given in the table showing the relative importance of the principal articles of export from Calcutta. The increase of Rs. 2·26 lakhs under manures is due mainly to larger shipments of ammonium sulphate. The United Kingdom's demand for bonemeal was partly set off by the advent of the United States into this market. Apparel has shown a steady improvement during the last four years. Under drugs and medicines the increase of Rs. 1:17 lakhs of putchuk more than compensated for the loss in nux vomica. Under leather, the United Kingdom took more unwrought leather but less dressed or tanned cow hides. A better demand from the Straits Settlements for ghee accounted for the improvement under provisions and oilman's stores. Under spices, Ceylon consumed less chillies and pepper. The United Kingdom curtailed her orders for Indian carpets and rugs by Rs. 14 lakhs. Indian tobacco was in much less demand and exports dropped from Rs. 3 lakhs to less than Rs. 1 lakh. The export trade in raw silk showed some improvement. In pursuance of the policy of restriction of opium consumption, exports ceased altogether. The value of articles exported by post increased from Rs. 12·71 lakhs to Rs. 19;73 lakhs.

Export trade of Chittagong.

500. The export trade of the Chittagong port declined from Rs. 542·51 lakhs in 1934-35 to Rs. 517:43 lakhs. Tea accounted for 86 per cent. and raw jute for 10 per cent. of the trade. Raw cotton and paraffin wax were the other principal articles.

Shipping.

501. In the foreign trade of Calcutta, 152 vessels entered with cargo and 79 in ballast and 374 cleared with cargo and 45 in ballast. The entry at Chittagong was 5 vessels with cargo and one in ballast.

502. The following table shows the distribution of the trade of Calcutta with the principal foreign countries:—

| | Imports. | | | | Exports. | | | | Percentage of total trade. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1934-35. | | 1935-36. | | 1934-35. | | 1935-36. | | | |
| | Value in lakhs of rupees. | Percentage. | Value in lakhs of rupees. | Percentage. | Value in lakhs of rupees. | Percentage. | Value in lakhs of rupees. | Percentage. | 1934-35. | 1935-36. |
| United Kingdom .. | 1,703·70 | 48·26 | 1,779·34 | 47·14 | 1,820·54 | 31·77 | 1,772·95 | 28·96 | 38·05 | 35·89 |
| Other British possessions | 312·77 | 8·73 | 349·95 | 9·27 | 886·94 | 13·71 | 931·76 | 15·22 | 18·95 | 12·96 |
| Germany .. .. | 227·77 | 6·45 | 304·20 | 8·06 | 270·68 | 4·73 | 353·50 | 5·78 | 5·38 | 6·65 |
| Belgium .. .. | 48·60 | 1·38 | 61·44 | 1·63 | 140·52 | 2·45 | 166·50 | 2·72 | 2·04 | 2·30 |
| France .. .. | 22·08 | ·62 | 24·32 | ·64 | 136·88 | 2·39 | 166·89 | 2·72 | 1·72 | 1·94 |
| Italy .. .. | 75·88 | 2·15 | 48·04 | 1·27 | 175·95 | 3·07 | 113·89 | 1·86 | 2·72 | 1·64 |
| Japan .. .. | 517·15 | 14·64 | 577·93 | 15·31 | 205·91 | 3·59 | 261·86 | 4·28 | 7·81 | 8·49 |
| United States .. | 261·30 | 7·40 | 261·34 | 6·92 | 943·64 | 16·47 | 1,171·53 | 19·14 | 13·01 | 14·48 |
| South America .. | ·00 | ·00 | ·01 | .. | 363·14 | 6·34 | 293·08 | 4·79 | 3·92 | 2·96 |
| Other countries .. | 363·06 | 10·37 | 367·90 | 9·76 | 785·57 | 15·48 | 889·86 | 14·53 | 6·40 | 12·69 |
| Total .. | 3,532·31 | 100·00 | 3,774·47 | 100·00 | 5,729·77 | 100·00 | 6,121·82 | 100·00 | 100·00 | 100·00 |

## Coasting Trade.

General position.

503. The total value of the coasting trade declined from Rs. 3,016·49 lakhs in 1934-35 to Rs. 2,611·61 lakhs during the year under review. Imports fell from Rs. 1,953·05 lakhs to Rs. 1,552·49 lakhs and exports from Rs. 1,063·44 lakhs to Rs. 1,059·12 lakhs.

Calcutta.

504. The remarkable improvement in the coasting trade of Calcutta noted in 1934-35 was not maintained and the total trade declined from Rs. 2,548·73 lakhs to Rs. 2,327·82 lakhs. There was a general falling off in almost all the major items under imports, the most important of which were rice from Burma and wheat from Sind. Imports of paddy from Bihar, Orissa and Burma improved by Rs. 18 lakhs. Cigarettes from Madras dropped by Rs. 21 lakhs. Cocoanut oil and cotton twist and yarn from Madras, salt from almost all sources, rape-seed from Sind and pepper from non-British ports improved while groundnuts from Madras, oil from Burma, and cotton piece-goods from Bombay declined steeply. Exports decreased in tea and jute manufactures to Bombay and chillies to Madras. There was a rise in the exports of metals to Burma and hides and leather to Madras.

Chittagong.

505. The total coasting import trade of Chittagong was Rs. 161·50 lakhs compared with Rs. 349·82 lakhs in 1934-35 and the export trade was Rs. 76·52 lakhs against 80·42 lakhs.

## The Calcutta Port Trust.

Port and Port approaches.

506. The Port and Port approaches were maintained satisfactorily during the year under review. The Middleton Bar, as has been the case for many years past, governed the drafts of vessels leaving the Port for practically the whole of the year. Owing possibly to the poor freshets, there was less water than usual on the low water crossing during the latter half of the year, and some dredging was necessary on Munikhali crossing, Sankral bight, and Panchpara crossing, but the importance of depth on these low water crossings has diminished owing to the increased use made of the lighted channel between Garden Reach and Uluberia.

Trade.

507. During the year under report 1,201 vessels with an aggregate gross tonnage of 6,791,748 entered the Port, as compared with 1,217 with an aggregate tonnage of 6,831,658 during the previous year. The aggregate net tonnage of sea-borne traffic at the Port was 8,230,795 tons as compared with 8,377,233 tons during the previous year.

508. The income for the year 1935-36 amounted to Rs. 3,00,27,620 against Rs. 3,06,19,818 in the preceding year. The expenditure for the year was Rs. 3,19,34,314, as compared with Rs. 3,18,03,266 during 1934-35 and the year closed with a deficit of Rs. 19,06,694 as against a deficit of Rs. 11,83,448 at the end of the previous year. The deficit was met from the Revenue Reserve Fund, leaving a balance of Rs. 26,25,732 in the Fund, at the close of the year. Financial position.

The Commissioners exercised their option to repay after five years the loan of Rs. 60 lakhs bearing interest at the rate of 6¼ per cent. per annum which was issued in 1930. Tenders were invited for a 30-year loan bearing interest at the rate of 3¾ per cent. per annum and an average rate of Rs. 97-13-6 was obtained.

## Howrah Bridge.

509. The income of the Howrah Bridge during the year amounted to Rs. 3,72,585 whereas the expenditure was Rs. 5,66,460 including a debt of Rs. 47,454 to the Port Commissioners brought forward from 1934-35 leaving a total deficit of Rs. 1,93,875. The expenditure also included a sum of Rs. 2,51,490 spent on the special repair work which was started during 1933-34 and which had to be undertaken in order to keep the Bridge in use until the new bridge is completed. The total expenditure on this special maintenance amounted to Rs. 6,12,413 by the end of the year. Revenue.

510. During the year the Bridge was opened on 316 occasions of which 76 were day and 240 were night openings. The total number of the various classes of Vessels that passed through the Bridge during 1935-36 was 5,995 as against 6,022 in the preceding year. Bridge openings.

## Inland Steam and Motor Vessels.

511. The survey staff stationed in Calcutta surveyed 417 steam and 100 motor vessels and the Ship Surveyor at Chittagong surveyed 205 steam and 62 motor vessels. Surveys.

512. The survey fees realised amounted to Rs. 42,074 at Calcutta and Rs. 15,751 at Chittagong. Survey fees.

513. For certificates of competency as engine-drivers of inland steam and motor vessels including permits to take charge of inland motor vessels of 40 B.H.P. or less, 230 candidates were examined at Calcutta and 76 at Chittagong. Of these 86 passed Examinations.

at Calcutta and 38 at Chittagong. For certificates of competency as Serangs and Masters of inland vessels, 294 candidates were examined at Calcutta out of whom 95 passed.

Court of Enquiry.

514. During the year under review eight special courts of enquiry under section 33 (*a*) of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, I of 1917, were held to investigate the circumstances leading to accidents caused by inland steam or motor vessels. In two cases the local Government directed the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta to hold investigations under section 33 (*b*) and in one case a District Magistrate was similarly directed. In eight cases the certificates of the Masters or Serangs concerned were temporarily suspended.

Rules.

515. There was no important change in the Rules framed under the Inland Steam Vessels Act, I of 1917.

## Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Report on the Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, for the year 1935.]

516. During the year under report five new licenses were granted under section 3 (1) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, viz.: (1) the Bansberia Electric License, 1935, (2) the Budge Budge and Bauria Electric License, 1935, (3) the Rajshahi Electric License, 1935, (4) the Barakar Electric License, 1935, and (5) the Raneegunge Electric License, 1935. The applications of previous years for (1) Chandpur, (2) Comilla, and (3) Pabna remained under consideration. Fresh applications were received for Bogra, Nator, Nabadwip and Santipur, Faridpur, Kalimpong and English Bazar, Malda. No license was revoked during the year 1935.

The change over from the obsolete 83·3 cycle system under the Darjeeling Electric License, 1913, to the modern 50-cycle system was in progress during the year under review and was completed early in 1936 except for a few lines and motors.

The Serajganj Electric License, 1931, was put up for sale during the year under report and was purchased by the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited. The supply of energy to the public under this license continued to be satisfactory.

The compulsory works under the Khulna Electric License, 1932, the Naihati Electric License, 1932, and the Midnapore Electric License, 1932, were completed and supply of energy to consumers was commenced during the year under review.

Very little progress was made by the licensees of the Bankura Electric License, 1932, and some progress was made during the year by the licensees of the Krishnagar Electric License, 1932.

Supply to the public was commenced under the Barisal Electric License, 1933.

Considerable progress was made by the licensees of the Rajshahi Electric License. The supply to consumers was commenced early in 1936.

Sanction to the supply of electrical energy under section 28 (1) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, was granted to:—

(*a*) Mr. R. B. Day to supply energy in the town of Bhairab Bazar for a period of 10 years or until a license is granted for the area. The supply commenced on 1st October 1935.

(*b*) The Rivers Steam Navigation Company to supply energy to the Barisal Club up to the 29th February 1936, after which the supply to the club will be given by the local licensees.

(*c*) Commander, Royal Engineers, Presidency and Assam District, to supply energy to the residence of the District Judge, Midnapore, from the 1st April to the 4th May 1935, after which the supply will be given by the local licensees.

(*d*) The Bengal Iron Company, Limited, to supply energy to the bungalow of the Assistant Coal Superintendent, State Railways at Kulti, for 10 years or until license is granted for the area.

There were 179 accidents during the year against 133 in 1934, of which 9 were fatal.

During the year under review the Government of Bengal appointed a committee to enquire into and report on the charges levied by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited. The Committee did not complete their enquiries and submit their report till the 18th February 1936.

# CHAPTER XIII.

## Literature and the Press.

### Books.

[Bengal Library and the working of Act XXV of 1867.]

517. The total number of publications registered was 5,750, of which 4,429 were books and 1,321 periodicals. Of the former, 4,302 were original publications against 3,880 in 1934 and 127 republications and translations against 133. The number of educational books rose from 1,942 in the previous year to 2,251 and non-educational books from 2,071 to 2,178.

Art and Industry.

518. Mr. O. C. Ganguly, the well-known critic of Indian Art, brought out in two very well printed and interesting volumes entitled "Ragas and Raginis" a pictorial and iconographic study of the Indian musical modes. The first volume contains history, old texts and criticism while the second contains only pictures.

On the side of industry, Mr. M. P. Gandhi's "Research in Sugar Problems and Utilisation of Bye-products" made an attempt to indicate the lines along which the growing sugar industry in India might proceed with fair prospects of stability and success. The same writer brought out another publication on the same industry bearing the title "Indian Sugar Industry (1935 Annual)." "Crystallisation and Pan-boiling" by Mr. A. L. C. Mathot also largely related to that industry. There was an anonymous publication of some importance on the "Chemical Industries of India" showing the possibilities as well as processes of manufacture of the sulphuric and certain other acids, some sulphates and other chemicals.

The necessity for a strict restriction of the cultivation of jute was the theme of several publications, the most important of which was a brochure entitled "The Importance of Jute in the Economy of Bengal" by Khan Sahib Abdul Khaleque of Feni in the district of Noakhali.

Biography.

519. Sir P. C. Roy, the great chemist and educationist, brought out a second volume of his "Life and Experiences of a Bengali Chemist" during the year under review. "Ram Mohan Roy" by Professor Uppendra Nath Ball, M.A., of Lahore, was a well-digested study of the great social and religious reformer's life, work and thoughts. Another important volume which, like

this book, made its appearance during the year under note in connection with the centenary celebrations (in 1933) of Raja Ram Mohan Roy's death was "The Father of Modern India" containing contributions from various persons of note. It was compiled by Satis Chandra Chakravarty. "The Memoirs of Moti Lal Ghose," the distinguished journalist and political leader of the extremist school by his grandson Poramananda Dutt, was an interesting and informing review of an intensely active life and a period in the history of Bengal crowded with many exciting events.

Drama.

520. In Sanyasi (The Ascetic) Babu Nagendra Chandra Som condemned the present system of education as encouraging luxury and preference for the attractions of town life and recommended the establishment of a net work of educational centres in rural areas where the pupils might receive more useful education and practical training. In Chudanta (The Last Limit) he sought to illustrate the evil effects of adoption of "Western" ways of living and upheld the time honoured Hindu ideals of social life. Finally in Tarun Sangha (The Young Men's League) he showed how a league of youthful workers in the cause of Swaraj had finally to be dissolved owing to the prevalence of immorality among the members and laid stress on the value of purity of character on the part of all working in any public cause.

Besides referring to the need for restriction of the cultivation of jute as a means for improvement of the economic condition of the peasantry, "Chashar Bhagya" (The Cultivators' lot) by Narendra Chandra Bhattacharyya drew pointed attention to several other problems of rural life. A more socialistic outlook was assumed in another play named "Daser Dabi" (The claims of the masses) in which it was stressed that leaders and workers should come from the masses.

The more recent tendency on the part of a section of the Muhammadan community to interpret anew and aplaud the character and policy of Aurangzeb was in evidence in a play "Aurangjeb" by Ejaharul Huq.

Fiction.

521. The most notable book of the year was Char Adhyay (Four Chapters) by Rabindra Nath Tagore, a love story in a terrorist setting. One cannot save a country by killing its soul and terrorism does kill a country's soul by its inevitable alliance with vices of all sorts: this appear to be the moral of the book. Sarat Chandra Chatterjee, the other chief writer of fiction portrayed an ideal Hindu House-holder and zeminder devoted to truth, duty and justice, who, while firm in his own religious views, knew how to respect the religious views and practices of others.

There were many publications by ladies emphasising their adherence to the time-honoured Hindu ideals of purity and chastity and dislike of "Modernism" in manners and living. Notable publications of this nature are: "Patha O Pantha" (The way and the wayfarer) and "Rater Pathik" (The night traveller) by Mrs. Prabhabati Devi Saraswati, "Samarpan" (The giving away) by Asalata Sinha and "Mahamaya" by Sita Devi.

History.

522. During the year under review, Dr. Benimadhab Barua, Professor, Calcutta University, completed his illustrated monograph on "Gaya and Budha Gaya", a useful handbook giving practically all information now available concerning the ancient holy shrines in those places. "Dara Shikoh" (Vol. I) by Dr. Kalikaranjan Quanungo gave a very thorough and illuminating account of that notable prince. The next book of importance was to a great extent of a biographical nature being "The Life and Works of Amir Khusrau" by Dr. M. W. Mirza. An Assistant Reader in the Bengal Library, Babu Ramesh Chandra Neogi, B.A., wrote a painstaking monograph on Rajgriha, a village in Bihar, which was at one time a place of unique importance in ancient history, and is still a place of pilgrimage to Hindus, Buddhists and Jains.

Politics.

523. The literature under this head was fairly large in volume and representative of almost every shade of political opinion in the country. The Parliamentary White Paper on Indian Constitutional Reforms and the Report of the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee were criticised in two English books, viz: (*i*) the Reforms scheme by D. N. Banerjee, Reader and Head of the Department of Economics and Politics in Dacca University, and (*ii*) The Dead Sea Apple by a Harijan. Other books worth mentioning are: "Naya Bharater Bhitti" (Foundations of a New India) by Rezaul Karim, M.A., "Vartaman Jatiya Sankate Tarun O Chhatrer Karthavya (Duty of students and young men in the present national crisis) by Kalipada Mukherjee, "Chashar Dabi" (The Cultivators' Demand) by Mir Abdul Matin and "Brave New Anglo-India" by K. E. Wallace. Besides these there were several booklets on communism by Soumyendra Nath Tagore and Akrur Dutt.

Religion.

524. Religious literature was as usual ample as well as representative of many varieties of religious belief. The following were the more notable books: "Lights on Yoga" by Sri Aurobindo Ghosh, "Eastern Lights" by Dr. Mahendra Nath Sircar, "Mother India" by Anilbaran Ray, "Evolution and Religion" by J. T. Sunderland, A.M., D.D. of New York, "Santi-Niketan" Part I, by Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore, containing a large number of religious discourses delivered by him in his school some 27 years ago.

"Atmajnan" (Self knowledge) by Swami Abhedananda, "Sanatan Dharma" (The Eternal Religion) by Professor Dhirendra Krishna Mukharji, and "Koraner Vani" (The Message of the Koran) by Raisuddin, M.A.

Miscellaneous.

525. There were a few volumes relating to the commemoration of their Late Imperial Majesties' Silver Jubilee. Two rather important books related to criminology, viz.: "Murder of Prostitutes for Gain" by Rai Sahib Satyendra Nath Mukherji, A.R.P.S., and "A Handbook of Criminology" by Ambica Charan Bose.

## Newspapers and periodicals.

Number of newspapers and periodicals.

526. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, English and vernacular, printed or published in Bengal during the year under review, was 869 against 803 of the previous year. With the exception of 12, the nature of which was unknown, this number included 333 newspapers and 524 periodicals, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 305 and 488, respectively. Classified according to language 263 were in English, 450 in Bengali, 58 in Hindi, 30 in Urdu, and the rest in other languages. Of these 145 newspapers and periodicals were started and 92 ceased to exist during the year.

Prosecutions and proscriptions.

527. Prosecutions were instituted in respect of 3 newspapers against none the year before. Sixty-nine warnings were issued against 89 in the previous year. Action was taken under the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, by demand of security from 6 papers and 5 presses as against 5 papers and 5 presses in 1934. Security was forfeited in 2 cases as in the previous year. As against 8 publications proscribed in 1934 under the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, in 1935, 15 publications were proscribed, 13 under the same Act and 2 under section 99A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

The Press.

528. The general political tone of Indian Press was extremist. Unfair criticism of Government ascribing to them pro-British and anti-Indian motives continued to be the dominant characteristics of an important section of the press. There was, however, a welcome change in the tone of some of the nationalist papers which in varying degrees wavered between pro-Government an extremist outlooks, their views at times being pro-Government and when anti-Government more moderate in expression.

## Administration of the Cinematograph Act.

529. During the year under review 1,198 films representing 3,362,022 feet were certified by the Bengal Board of Censors of which 141 representing 1,135,002 feet were Indian, 408 representing 688,880 feet were British, 641 representing 1,528,085 feet were American and 8 representing 10,055 feet were imported from other countries. Of the total number, approximately, 11·77 per cent. was Indian, 34·06 per cent. British, 53·5 per cent. American and only ·67 per cent. of other countries. Of the films certified this year by the Board, only 44 were silent. Certificates were refused to 7 films and excisions were made in 12 films before they were certified for public exhibition.

The Board suspended under section 7 (4) of the Cinematograph Act, the Bombay Board certificate for the film "Samaj-ki-Bhul" produced by the Imperial Film Company of Bombay and the Local Government by notification in the "Calcutta Gazette" declared the film to be uncertified in the whole of the Bengal Presidency.

There was no prosecution for any breach of the rules under the Act during the year under review.

Although the film art and technique has made rapid strides in this country, yet there is still a considerable leeway to make up before India can hold her own against American and British production. The film industry in this country might, with advantage, make use of the natural scenery, art and architectural beauties, large stock of fairy tales and interesting animal tales with which India abounds, but no systematic effort seems to have been made yet in this direction.

Two hundred and fifty-six licenses were issued during the period under review to peripatetic shows in and around Calcutta.

It is interesting to note that steps have been taken to insist on a minimum distance between the front row of seats and the picture screen in order to relieve undue eye-strain in cinema houses.

There is every sign of the steady growth of the cinema habit among the Indian population in the big cities and there is no reason to doubt that this is the case also in the rural areas where peripatetic displays are arousing greater interest.

# INDEX.


PAGE.

Act(s)—
—passed .. .. xxviii, 68
Agricultural Debtors'—, 1935 xxii
Cinematograph— .. 200
Bengal Development— .. 68, 137
Indian Companies— .. 179
Indian Electricity— .. 194
Factories— .. 174
Indian Trade Unions— .. 175
Inland Steam Vessels— .. 193
Marriage—III of 1872 .. 18
Muhammadan Registration and Kazis— .. 18
Poisons— .. .. 157
Provident Insurance Societies— .. .. 180
Water-hyacinth—, 1936 .. xxiii
Workmen's Compensation— 177
Workmen's Protection—, 1934 178

Additional garrison .. x
Administration, The .. i

Agriculture(al)—
Debtors' Act, 1935 .. xxii
Demostration and propaganda .. .. 109
Education .. .. 107
Engineering .. .. 109
Farms .. .. 107
Innovation .. .. xxiii
Cattle breeding .. 108
Research and experiment .. 106
Seed distribution .. 108
Art, Schools of .. .. 161

Auxiliary and Indian Territorial Force .. .. 4

Bank(s)—
Bengal Provincial Co-operative— .. .. 130
Land Mortgage— .. xx, 120

Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act—
Action under the— .. vii

Bills .. .. xxix, 71
Book(s) .. .. 196

Calcutta Corporation— .. x
Assessment Department .. 76
Buildings .. .. 82
Bustees .. .. 81
Chief Valuer's and Surveyors' Department .. .. 76
Collection .. .. 77
Conservancy .. 82
Drainage .. .. 80
Education .. 83
Finance .. .. 75
Food Inspection .. 83
Health .. .. 82
Law suits .. .. 79
Licenses .. 77
Lighting .. .. 77
Markets .. .. 83
Personnel .. .. 75
Roads .. .. 82
Water-supply .. .. 78
Calcutta Improvement Trust .. 84
Calcutta Port Trust .. 192
Cattle breeding .. .. 108
Cesses, Road and Public Works 67
Chemical Examiner's Department .. .. 13
Chittagong Hill Tracts .. 36, 44
Cinchona Plantations and Factory .. .. 114
Cinematograph .. 200
Colonization of the Sunderbans 41
Communal relations .. x
Communism—Trade Unions and— .. xxvii
Condition of the people .. 38
Congress activities .. v
Cooch Behar State .. 1
Co-operative Credit movement xxiii

Co-operative Societies—
Amendment of—Act .. 130
Agricultural Association .. 123
Agricultural Credit— .. 120, xx
Anti-malarial— .. 127
Artisans— .. 125
Bengal Co-operative Insurance 129
Bengal Co-operative Organisation .. .. 130
Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank .. 130
Cattle breeding— .. 124
Cattle Insurance— .. 129
Central Banks— .. 129
Fishermen's— .. 125
House Building— .. 128
Irrigation and Drainage— 123
Land Mortgage Banks— .. 120
Non-Agricultural Credit— .. 124
Producers— .. .. 129
Production and Sale— .. 123
Purchase and Sale— .. 122
Relief— .. .. 127
Rural Reconstruction— .. 127
Silk— .. .. 126
Stores and Supplies— .. 125
Weavers— .. .. 125
Women's— .. .. 127
Zemindari— .. .. 126

Co-operative training . 130

Crop(s)—
Area .. .. 110, 112
Bhadoi— .. .. 110
Character of the Season .. 109
Cotton .. .. 111
Failure of—in West Bengal .. xv
Jute— .. .. 110
Rabi— .. .. 111
Rice-winter— .. .. 111
Sugarcane— .. .. 111
Weather and— .. 109

| | PAGE. |
|---|---|
| Death of King Emperor George V. .. .. | ii |
| Debt conciliation boards .. | xxii, 39 |
| Demonstration Parties for minor industries .. | xxi |
| Detenus— | |
| Vocational training of— .. | viii |
| District Boards— | |
| Civil Works .. | 102 |
| Education .. .. | 99 |
| Finance .. .. | 98 |
| Local Boards .. .. | 98 |
| Public Health .. | 100 |
| Union Committees .. | 98 |
| Veterinary .. .. | 102 |
| Water-supply .. .. | 103 |
| Eastern Frontier Rifles .. | 8 |
| Ecclesiastical Establishment .. | 6 |
| Eden Sanitarium .. .. | 156 |
| Education— | |
| Ahsanullah School of Engineering .. .. | 161 |
| Bengal Engineering College .. | 161 |
| Cantonment schools .. | 165 |
| Educational institutions and expenditure .. | 158 |
| —of children of backward classes .. | 164 |
| —of colliery and factory children .. | 165 |
| —of criminal classes .. | 164 |
| —of tea garden children .. | 165 |
| —of Europeans and Anglo-Indians .. | 162 |
| —of Indian girls and women | 162 |
| —of defectives .. .. | 165 |
| —of the sons of chiefs and nobles .. .. | 164 |
| First grade training in Normal Schools .. .. | 160 |
| Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta .. | 161 |
| Government School of Art, Calcutta .. .. | 161 |
| Guru and Muallim training schools .. .. | 160 |
| Muhammadan— .. | 163 |
| Oriental— .. | 164 |
| Primary— .. .. | 159 |
| Professional and technical— | 161 |
| Rural Development grant .. | 165 |
| Secondary— .. .. | 159 |
| Training of male teachers .. | 160 |
| Training of women teachers | 160 |
| University and Collegiate .. | 158 |
| Elections— | |
| Preparations for holding— .. | iv |
| Scheduled castes primary .. | iv |
| Emigration— | |
| Foreign— .. | 7 |
| Inland— .. | 6 |
| Repatriation .. .. | 7 |

| | PAGE. |
|---|---|
| Excise— | |
| Administration .. | 64 |
| Bhang .. .. | 66 |
| Charas .. .. | 66 |
| Country spirit .. | 64 |
| Offences .. .. | 66 |
| —revenues .. .. | 64 |
| Foreign liquor .. .. | 65 |
| Ganja .. .. | 66 |
| Opium .. .. | 66 |
| Pachwai .. .. | 65 |
| Tari .. .. | 65 |
| Temperance movement .. | 66 |
| Failure of crops in West Bengal | xv |
| Finance, Revenue and— | |
| Imperial— .. | 53 |
| Provincial— .. | 56 |
| Forests— | |
| Area .. | 115 |
| Communications and buildings | 116 |
| Damage from natural causes | 116 |
| General .. .. | 117 |
| Revenue and Expenditure .. | 116 |
| Utilization .. .. | 116 |
| Working plans .. | 116 |
| Garden(s)— | |
| Calcutta— .. .. | 113 |
| Llyod Botanic— .. | 114 |
| Royal Botanic .. .. | 112 |
| Zoological— .. .. | 119 |
| Goat tissue vaccine .. | xxiv, 117, 118 |
| Government Estates .. | xxiv |
| Government policy (Terrorism) | vii |
| Government Relief measures (West Bengal Scarcity)— | |
| Test relief works .. | xvi |
| Gratuitous relief .. | xvii |
| Land Improvement loans .. | xviii |
| Agricultural loans .. | xix |
| Haj Pilgrims .. .. | 7 |
| Horticulture .. .. | 112 |
| Hospitals | |
| —and dispensaries in Calcutta | 154 |
| —and dispensaries outside Calcutta. .. .. | 155 |
| Howrah Bridge— | |
| Old .. .. | 193 |
| New .. .. | xii |
| Industrial Credit Corporation .. | xxii |
| Industrial disputes .. | 175, xxvi |
| Industries Department— | |
| Coir industry .. .. | 167 |
| Detenu training scheme .. | 168 |
| General .. .. | 166 |
| Handloom Industry .. | 166 |
| Industrial Credit Corporation | xxii |
| Sericultural industry .. | 168 |
| State-aid to industries .. | 167 |
| Sugar industry .. | 169 |
| Tanning industry .. | 167 |
| Unemployment relief scheme | 168 |

| | PAGE. |
|---|---|
| Inland Steam and Motor Vessels | 193 |
| Irrigation— | |
| *Bengal Development Act* .. | 137 |
| *Capital account* .. | 136 |
| *Embankments* .. | 140 |
| *Flushing operations* .. | 139 |
| *Major projects* .. .. | 136 |
| Other schemes .. | 137 |
| Protective work .. | 140 |
| Revenue account .. | 137 |
| Rural Development grant .. | 139 |
| Surveys .. .. | 140 |
| Works maintained by—Department .. .. | 141 |
| Jails— | |
| Borstal school .. | 14 |
| Cost of guarding and maintenance .. .. | 14 |
| Discipline of convicts .. | 17 |
| Health and mortality .. | 17 |
| Indoor games .. .. | 17 |
| Jail dairies .. .. | 17 |
| Jail libraries .. .. | 17 |
| Jail manufactures .. | 17 |
| Juvenile and adolescent prisoners .. .. | 15 |
| Population .. .. | 13 |
| Prisoners aid societies .. | 16 |
| Short-term prisoners .. | 16 |
| Terrorist prisoners .. | 14 |
| Undertrial prisoners .. | 16 |
| Warders .. .. | 16 |
| Justice (Civil)— | |
| Appeals from subordinate Civil Courts .. .. | 32 |
| Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court .. | 33 |
| Calcutta Small Cause Court .. | 31 |
| Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court | 29 |
| High Court (Appellate Jurisdiction) .. .. | 32 |
| High Court (Original Jurisdiction) .. .. | 28 |
| Judicial staff .. | 27 |
| Receipts and charges .. | 35 |
| Union Courts .. | 31 |
| Justice (Criminal)— | |
| Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court .. | 25 |
| Courts of Sessions .. | 23 |
| High Court (Appellate Jurisdiction) .. .. | 24 |
| Judicial staff .. .. | 19 |
| Magisterial staff .. | 19 |
| Magistrates outside Calcutta | 21 |
| Number of offences .. | 20 |
| Presidency Magistrates .. | 21 |
| Special Magistrates .. | 19 |
| Special Railway Magistrates | 20 |
| Special Tribunals, .. | 20 |
| Union Benches .. | 22 |
| Jute restriction .. .. | xx |

| | PAGE. |
|---|---|
| King Emperor George V— | |
| Death of— .. .. | ii |
| Proposals for a memorial of— | iii |
| Land Acqusitition .. | 39 |
| Land Improvement and Agricultural loans .. | 40 |
| Land Mortgage Banks .. | xx, 120 |
| Land Records and Settlements— | |
| Bakarganj .. .. | 50 |
| Bankura .. .. | 51 |
| Bogra .. .. | 51 |
| Burdwan-Hooghly .. | 46 |
| Dinajpur .. .. | 49 |
| Howrah .. .. | 49 |
| Jalpaiguri .. .. | 50 |
| Malda .. .. | 47 |
| Midnapore .. .. | 51 |
| Mymensingh .. .. | 50 |
| Nadia-Murshidabad-Rajshahi | 51 |
| Noakhali .. .. | 50 |
| Pabna .. .. | 52 |
| Rangpur .. .. | 48 |
| 24-Parganas .. .. | 50 |
| Land Registration .. | 39 |
| Land Revenue— | |
| Coercive measures .. | 37 |
| Miscellaneous .. | 37 |
| Realization of— .. | 37 |
| Redemption of— .. | 37 |
| Total collection .. | 37 |
| Legislative Council— | |
| Acts .. .. | 68, xxviii |
| Bills pending .. | 71, xxix |
| Budget grants .. .. | xxix |
| Questions .. .. | xxix |
| Resolutions .. .. | xxix |
| Sessions .. .. | xxviii |
| Special motions .. | xxx |
| Literature and the Press .. | 196 |
| Local Boards .. .. | 98 |
| Loans— | |
| Land Improvement— .. | 40, xviii |
| Agricultural— .. | 40, xix |
| Manufacture and Mines— | |
| Coal .. .. | 170 |
| Cotton .. .. | 169 |
| Jute .. .. | 169 |
| Paper .. .. | 170 |
| Saltpetre .. .. | 170 |
| Silk .. .. | 169 |
| Sugar .. .. | 169 |
| Tea .. .. | 169 |
| Wool .. .. | 170 |
| Miscellaneous manufactures and minor industries— | |
| Burdwan Division .. | 172 |
| Chittagong Division .. | 173 |
| Dacca Division .. | 173 |
| Presidency Division .. | 171 |
| Rajshahi Division .. | 172 |

| | PAGE. |
|---|---|
| Municipalities— | |
| Audit | 96 |
| Collection | 87 |
| Conservancy | 92 |
| Drainage | 92 |
| Education | 89 |
| Elections | 85 |
| General | 85 |
| Income and expenditure | 88 |
| Lighting | 93 |
| Meetings | 86 |
| Public Health | 94 |
| Rate-payers | 86 |
| Rates and taxes | 86 |
| Roads and Buildings | 96 |
| Water-supply | 90 |
| New Howrah Bridge | xii |
| Newspapers and periodicals | 199 |
| Non-official efforts (West Bengal Scarcity) | xviii |
| Partition | 39 |
| Parties— | |
| Political— | iv |
| Poisons Act | 157 |
| Police Administration in Bengal | |
| Buildings | 9 |
| Charge | 8 |
| Crime Statistics | 9 |
| Discipline | 8 |
| Eastern Frontier Rifles | 8 |
| Health | 8 |
| Intelligence Branch | 10 |
| Strength of the Force | 8 |
| Revolutionary crime | 10 |
| Rural Police | 10 |
| Police Administration in Calcutta— | |
| Beggars | 12 |
| Charge | 11 |
| Communal peace | 12 |
| Crime Statistics | 11 |
| Discipline | 11 |
| Health | 11 |
| Labour | 12 |
| Revolutionary crime | 12 |
| Strength of the Force | 11 |
| Traffic | 12 |
| Political parties | iv |
| Political Sufferer's Day | ix |
| Press, The | xiii |
| Press notes | xxvi |
| Provident Insurance Societies Act | 180 |
| Provincial Autonomy— | |
| Introduction of— | iv |
| Public attitude towards terrorism | ix |
| Publicity— | |
| Cinema parties | xxv |
| Van | xxvi |
| Wireless Broadcast | xxvi |
| Public Health— | |
| Cholera | 144 |
| *Dai*-training | 149 |
| Dysentery and diarrhœa | 146 |
| Fairs and festivals | 149 |
| Fevers | 144, 146 |
| General conditions | 143 |
| Injuries | 147 |
| Kala-azar | 145 |
| Malaria | 145 |
| Plague | 146 |
| Propaganda | 150 |
| Registration of vital statistics | 143 |
| Respiratory diseases | 147 |
| Sanitation in the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong | 147 |
| School hygiene | 149 |
| Septic tank latrines | 150 |
| Small-pox | 144 |
| Public Health Laboratories | 148 |
| Public Works— | |
| Buildings | 133 |
| Charge | 131 |
| Communications | 181 |
| Consulting Architect | 134 |
| Progress at Maijdi | 133 |
| Reconstruction in Darjeeling | 133 |
| Railways | 135 |
| Publicity van | xxvi |
| Registration | 18 |
| Relations between landlords and tenants | 44 |
| Revenue— | |
| —and rent-paying classes | 44 |
| —and finance, Imperial | 53 |
| —and finance, Provincial | 56 |
| Rural development | xix |
| Rural uplift grant | viii, xxiv, 165, 139 |
| Salt | 55 |
| Sanitation | 152 |
| Scarcity in West Bengal— | |
| Government relief measures | xvi |
| Test relief works | xvi |
| Gratuitous relief | xvii |
| Land improvement loans | xviii |
| Agricultural loans | xiv |
| Non-official efforts | xviii |
| Sericulture | 168 |
| Smoke Nuisances Commission | 177 |
| Stamps | 63 |
| Steam Boiler Commission | 176 |
| Sunderbans, Colonization of | 41 |
| Surveys | 45 |
| Terrorism— | |
| Action under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act | vii |
| Activities of terrorists | vi |

| | Page. |
|---|---|
| Terrorism—*concld.* | |
| Additional garrison | x |
| Government policy | vii |
| Political Sufferers' Day | ix |
| Public attitude towards | ix |
| Vocational training of detenus | viii |
| Test relief works (West Bengal Scarcity) | xvi |
| Tours of His Excellency the Governor | i |
| Trade, Foreign and Sea-borne— | |
| Distribution | 181 |
| Exchange | 181 |
| Export trade of Calcutta | 187 |
| Export trade of Chittagong | 190 |
| General position | 180 |
| Import trade of Calcutta | 182 |
| Import trade of Chittagong | 186 |
| Shipping | 190 |
| Trade, Coasting— | |
| Calcutta— | 192 |
| Chittagong | 192 |
| General position | 192 |
| Trade Unions and Communism | xxvii |
| Tripura State | 3 |
| Unemployment relief scheme | 168 |
| Union Benches | 22 |
| Union Committees | 98 |
| Union Courts | 31 |
| University training corps | 4 |
| Vaccination | 150 |
| Vaccine, Goat tissue | xxiv, 117 |
| Veterinary— | |
| Animal husbandry | 117 |
| Bengal Veterinary College | 119 |
| Disease investigation office | 118 |
| Goat tissue vaccine | xxiv, 117, 118 |
| Innovation | 117 |
| Vaccine Department | 118 |
| Village Improvement | xxiv |
| Dispensaries | xxiv |
| Halls and Libraries | viii |
| Playgrounds | viii |
| Village Self-Government | xiii |
| Voluntary Labour— | |
| Encouragement by His Excellency the Governor | xxv |
| Destruction of water-hyacinth | xxiii |
| Kurulia khal | xxv |
| Other khals | xxv |
| Wards and attached estates | 42 |
| Waste lands | 40 |
| Water Hyacinth Act, 1936 | xxiii |
| Weather and crops | 109 |
| Wireless broadcast | xxvi |
| Workmen's Compensation Act | 177 |
| Workmen's Protection Act | 178 |
| Zoological Gardens, Calcutta | 119 |

B. G. Press—1936-37—9896C—780.

00133012

Digitized with financial assistance from

Government of Maharashtra

on 01 February, 2020